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Everyone here at **The GEM** wishes all our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas and every good fortune in the New Year. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, January 1.



Gathering of the elves in Bridgend!



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**ABOVE:
Watch out,
there are
elves about!**

(See more
pictures by
**RANDELL
JOHN** on
page 6).

AN explosion could have occurred and people could have been killed when a drug addict deliberately tore a gas meter from a wall outside a bungalow.

In bed were a couple, one of whom is wheelchair bound, said prosecutor Julian Greenwood at Cardiff Crown Court.

The man responsible, Rohan Lewis (40) of Heol Degwm, North Cornelly, had taken a cocktail of drugs, including cannabis, heroin, amphetamine and painkillers.

Lewis later told the police he had "heard voices" telling him to take a gas meter off a wall.

Lewis, who had no previous convictions, was jailed for two years after pleading guilty to possessing offensive weapons, and criminal damage, being reckless as to whether life would be endangered.

Mr Greenwood said that Deborah Davies and her invalid husband

Report by AJ SICLUNA

were asleep in their bungalow on November 1.

In the early hours of the morning, they could hear banging coming from the kitchen area. Mrs Davies called the

police because she believed someone was trying to break in.

"They arrived with expedition and spotted Lewis nearby trying to get the gas meter off the wall."

"On him, they found an axe, six Stanley knife blades, a metal letter opener and a blade

embedded in a piece of wood."

Officers suspected he was under the influence of drugs.

He was interviewed some hours later and said his life was out of control because of drugs.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 8)

'BUNGALOW COULD HAVE GONE UP' – CROWN COURT IS TOLD Lives endangered when local man tore gas meter from wall

Tree of Light for homeless

A WELSH charity for homeless people and a variety of other local causes will benefit from 'The Tree of Light', a community fundraising project for Christmas supported by St Mary's RC Church and the Lions Club of Bridgend.

Over the festive period, a real fir tree, bearing hundreds of illumination of The Tree of Light lights, will stand in front of the entrance to the church in Ewenny Road, Bridgend. Each light on the

tree is being sponsored by those who want to remember and cherish a loved one at Christmas, while helping those in need.

Traditionally, the tree is dedicated with a service at the church and, with their exquisite performance of 'Silent Night' and 'Once in Royal David's City', the choir of St Mary's RC Primary School heralded the official illumination of The Tree of Light on December 8.

Father Reardon, who led the service, spoke of the needs of the

homeless at this time of the year.

In response, Lions Club president, Godfrey Morris, thanked the generous sponsors – adding that he was proud of the Bridgend Club's special relationship with the church, which has jointly benefited the community.

A spokesman for the Lions Club said: "There is still time for those who wish to sponsor a light on the Tree of Light to do so by visiting the church, or by downloading the form at bridgendlions.org.uk"

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Not a place to go for Christmas shopping!

IRAQ is not the place to go if you are looking for Christmas shopping. Along with four other members of the Defence Select Committee and our clerk, I headed out on an overnight flight to Baghdad to take evidence for an inquiry into the UK's training mission in Iraq.

The delegation consisted of our Chairman, Rory Stewart, Sir Bob Russell, Derek Twigg, Richard Benyon, our committee clerk James Rhys and myself.

We stayed at the British Embassy in the international Green Zone.

To give you some idea of the situation, think of Bridgend's triangle of Wyndham Street, Queen Street and Derwen Road.

Everywhere else is the Red Zone where most of the people live.

To go into the Red Zone involves getting into body armour and an armour-plated minibus travelling between blast proof concrete T walls and stopping to pass through check points where flags fly showing there are Shia soldiers here.

The flags add to the tension in the city with the Sunni residents who see the flags as provocative. It is very like Northern Ireland, where flags can inflame tensions.

Each of our visits to government officers, palaces, meetings with civil society and journalists helps build a picture of a deeply troubled country.

Many people see their identity in tribal terms before they see themselves as Iraqi.

Many give their loyalty to their tribal chief before the government.

Divisions between Sunni and Shia were

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers.



exacerbated by President Malaki who excluded Sunni from most positions in government and funding for their tribal areas.

Murder and politically motivated arrest add to the tensions.

In Baghdad some nights there are up to 50 brutal deaths, often sectarian, sometimes revenge killings – sometimes just a person in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The threat from ISIL is only one of the many problems which beset the country and trap it in poverty not seen elsewhere in the Middle East.

Corruption is endemic and plays a big part in the weakness of the Iraqi army.

Service personnel are expected to pay a proportion of their wages to officers and many units contain large numbers of ghost soldiers; people who do not exist but receive a salary which again goes to the officers.

The army is said to be as large as one million men, but may be as small as 200,000.

Stamping out this corruption is the task of the new Defence Minister, Khalid Al Ubaidi.

The Minister is a Sunni ex-military man who is very impressive and determined to change the army into a strong fighting force that can defeat ISIL and replace the Shia militia which cause considerable fear and tension amongst the Sunni tribes.

Many fear he may

not live long enough to succeed, as too many vested interests don't want the corruption to end, despite the threat to the security of the country.

It is clear from all of our meetings that the Iraqis are desperate for military training and increased air bombardment of ISIL.

No one wants the return of western troops, as all recognise that this must be a Muslim fight against terrorism, criminality and a twisted version of their religion.

Many of the people we meet remind us that as a country they are still trying to find their way as a democracy.

It is less than 15 years since the fall of Saddam, who was universally hated by the Iraqi population, but with no democratic experience to fall back on, it is a hard struggle.

The first step is said to be the creation of a National Guard which would be dispersed around the country. Sunni Guards would be the defence force in Sunni towns and Shia in theirs.

There is no money for the force yet and the Bill to create it is stuck in the defence and security committee who are to review the legislation before it comes to Parliament for ratification.

We met the committee but could gain no idea of when the Bill would arrive in Parliament despite the universally agreed need to retake the town of Mossul from ISIL.

On visits such as this, you have to learn

to find humour in the oddest of places to offset the relentless discussion of violence and despair at the enormity of the task.

Attending one meeting I needed to go to the toilet and left the room only to find myself followed by one of our close protection squad.

It is the first, and I hope the only time, I will have an armed guard outside of the door when using a toilet.

Later, the committee stopped to have a photograph taken by the famous crossed swords.

The photograph had been given advance approval by the security team and although we look as though we are standing in an open space outside of the shot, our security team are on high alert.

Never has the call to get back on the bus been obeyed so quickly. It was also a delight to find someone from Maesteg to swap local gossip with! He was attached to our military presence in the Embassy.

Leaving Iraq, we flew on to Jordan for a meeting with King Abdullah.

The Jordanians have taken in a million refugees from Syria and Iraq.

We were told this was the equivalent of the UK taking in everyone from Rumania.

The King has kept the borders open to Christians fleeing persecution and now is setting up refugee camps on the border to help cope with the flow of those fleeing the violence.

Again, we discussed British assistance with the training of Jordanian forces to fight back against ISIL.

To come back to Britain and enjoy Christmas concerts, worry about the lack of Christmas cards and presents is a huge luxury.

To know that when friends and family go out at night they will almost certainly return safely and to be able to move around without check points and armed guards is sobering.

Enjoy your Christmas and celebrate the peace you live in, something we must all cherish.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

THE WAITING GAME FOR HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

IREFER to previous correspondence regarding NHS waiting times for hip and knee operations which Mark Drakeford AM stated to be 15 weeks.

In a letter from the Minister's office they attempted to justify his remarks by saying this was the median time.

If this was the case, it would mean that some would be higher and some lower. There are no

hospitals in Wales where the waiting times are anywhere near this time.

In a recent conversation with the management of the Princess of Wales Hospital, I was informed that all elective surgery at the hospital, including hips and knees, has been cancelled indefinitely, with no idea of a date when these would recommence.

As far as the Health Minister is concerned, there are only two possibilities regarding his statement.

Either he deliberately misled the Welsh people or he does not know what is happening in the hospitals under his care.

To allow a major hospital to collapse to the point where they cannot provide the care the people of Wales deserve is unforgivable.

MT Hopkins, Cowbridge.

Firm launched in friendship

IREAD with great interest an article (in The GEM) by Ceri Joseph of the Porthcawl Museum, covering life in Porthcawl after the outbreak of World War One.

It was mentioned that Harry Lambert and his brother John both fought in the war: sadly, John died as a result of his injuries.

Harry Lambert was a great friend of my grandfather T Elwood Deere and as a result of their friendship, they decided to start the first estate agency in

Porthcawl. The partnership was known as Lambert, Deere & Company.

Tragically, Harry died and my grandfather practised as T Elwood Deere & Son which continues to this day, having celebrated 100 years in 2011.

I fully support the Museum Society which has helped to secure the history of the town and feel it is important that they continue with the Museum in the Old Police Station in John Street – and the success undoubtedly will be with Ceri and her members. David Deere, Porthcawl.

GIVE TIME TO MARIE CURIE!

IAM appealing to GEM readers to volunteer for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal, and help people living with a terminal illness get the care they need.

We're looking for people who can donate a couple of hours of their time to collect for Marie Curie this February and March. All they need to do is encourage people to give a donation in return for a daffodil pin.

Collecting for the Great Daffodil Appeal will help Marie Curie Nurses care for someone in the local Cardiff and Vale hospice at Penarth, so they can spend more time with the people they love.

If you're able to donate your time to help, please contact me on 02920 426068; email Helen.mulhern@mariecurie.org.uk or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

Helen Mulhern (Community fundraiser)

Tenovus' thank you

AS 2014 draws to a close, I'd like to take some time to thank all 1,900 volunteers who generously give so much time to

Tenovus Cancer Care across Wales.

Tenovus Cancer Care supports cancer patients and their loved ones by offering emotional support and practical

advice. The hard work and dedication of our volunteers means that we're able to continue our vital work in the community and help more people affected by cancer.

We're really very grateful to them, and we're looking forward to a fantastic 2015! Claudia McVie, Cardiff. (Chief Executive, Tenovus Cancer Care)

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 25)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
18 Thur	03.05	8.0	15.28	8.2
19 Fri	03.59	8.4	16.21	8.6
20 Sat	04.48	8.9	17.08	9.1
21 Sun	05.33	9.4	17.52	9.5
22 Mon	06.16	9.8	18.38	9.9
23 Tues	07.01	10.2	19.23	10.0
24 Wed	07.47	10.3	20.08	10.0
25 Thur	08.32	10.2	20.55	9.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Young pupils bring joy to carol service

BRIDGEND Rotary Club held its Christmas carol service in St David's Church, Laleston by permission of Canon Edward Evans with the Maes Yr Haul Primary School choir.

The service was opened by Rev Mike Lewis, who gave prayers and thanks for blessings throughout the year. This was followed by Rotarians' president Sue Cassidy, who said that this was her favourite event of the year.

Bishop David Yeoman gave a sermon that the congregation enjoyed, on taking his grandchildren to visit the cinema to see *Nativity 3*, which gave a modern interpretation of the birth of Jesus.

Readings were given by Rotarians Gillian Hale, Hopkin Joseph and John McCarthy. After the service, a convivial gathering with mulled wine and mince pies was held in Blandy Hall opposite the church.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Taxi driver jailed after a sex attack

A TAXI driver who carried out a sex attack on a drunken, vulnerable passenger, has been jailed for seven years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Clifford Smith (49) told police officers during the investigation: "If it's put on a plate, you help yourself."

Smith, who had no previous convictions, of Lougher Place, North Cornelly, was found guilty of a charge of sexual assault by penetration on a woman in her twenties.

Prosecuting counsel, Michael Jones, said the woman had not made a victim impact statement:

"She said she wanted to get on with her life," said Mr Jones.

He added: "Any sexual assault on a young woman is utterly reprehensible. The fact she had been drinking heavily and was very vulnerable is no excuse. Clearly, it provided this defendant with an opportunity."

Passing sentence, Judge Stephen Hopkins QC said: "This was a serious, specified sexual offence."

Smith, he said, had been a taxi driver in mid Glamorgan for four years.

In the early hours of December 1 last year, he said, he was approached by a young woman very much under the influence

of drink, without any money to get home.

"You offered to take her home. It was a kindly offer, but it was anything but," said the Judge.

She fell asleep in the front passenger seat and found he had parked his taxi in a lay-by, where he put his hands down her trousers before driving her home.

The Judge said that she became confused and embarrassed but told a male friend what had happened, and he informed the police.

Smith was arrested and he initially denied that any sexual contact took place, but DNA samples indicated there had been contact.

At the trial, said the

judge, his defence was that what occurred was with the woman's consent and instigation.

"The jury, hardly surprisingly, rejected that. It was a gross breach of trust with a taxi driver taking a very vulnerable young woman home and taking sexual advantage of her."

He said the defendant showed no remorse, and the only mitigation was that he had no previous convictions.

His counsel, Sue

Ferrier, said: "He stands by the account he gave in evidence. He has worked hard throughout his life and cares for his family. He accepts he will receive a lengthy custodial sentence and when released, his employment prospects will be limited."

He added: "The conviction will affect him for the rest of his life."

He was directed on release to register as a sex offender for life.

Jail for woman who flouted legal orders

A YOUNG woman described as being on a "self destructive cycle" has been jailed for a year at Cardiff Crown Court for flouting several legal orders.

Rhiannon Roper (24) of Swyn-yr-Afon, Kenfig Hill, had appeared before the courts last month for offences of shoplifting, assaulting the police, breaching an anti-social behaviour order and a breach of a community order.

On that occasion, Judge Eleri Rees adjourned sentence to see if Roper could engage with the authorities and keep out of trouble.

After her latest appearance, she was in breach of ASBOs and damaging property.

Said the Judge: "She undermined all the steps taken by the court and is on a self-destructive cycle. At the age of 24, she is in a sad situation and the court has her welfare in mind."

Tracy Lloyd-Nesling, prosecuting, said Roper breached an ASBO by being drunk in Bridgend and stealing a bottle of wine. At one point, she threatened to jump from a bridge. The damage, she said, was to a blanket in a police cell.

The courts heard she had convictions for 102 offences involving dishonesty and for public order offences.

At one point, the court heard, she said she wanted to be arrested so that she could return to prison.

She later said she had been stupid and had not intended harming anyone.

Her counsel, Hugh Wallace, said: "She simply can't help herself, but she has been making some progress. An alcoholic, I am asking you to give her one last

chance."

The Judge said: "You have an absolutely appalling record, and I gave you the opportunity to demonstrate motivation."

Roper, she said, had profound problems and she added: "Take advantage of any offer of help you receive in prison."

Piece of cake for Maesteg's shop window winners!



Coun Philip Jenkins with the owners of the Iced Cake Parlour, Samantha Kingdon and Ceri Simmons.

Photography by Scenic Gallery, Maesteg.

THE winning entry in the Maesteg town centre Christmas shop window competition was the Iced Cake Parlour in the market.

The mayor of Maesteg visited the shop last week to present the owners, Samantha Kingdon and Ceri Simmons, with the prizewinners' shield.

There was a four-way tie for second place, between Paul Anthony, MAWS, Hair-VN and AI Lettings.

Cars damaged in Porthcawl

POLICE in Porthcawl are investigating after residents on New Road and Mackworth Road reported that their cars had been damaged

Five cars are confirmed to have been sprayed with paint, all thought to have happened overnight on Sunday, November 30.

Police Sergeant Mark Simmonds said: "These are strange and unusual incidents which appear to

be a one-off. "We are asking people who may have seen or heard anything around New Road or Mackworth Road to contact us so that we can find those responsible".

Anyone with any information is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400448388. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Sales consultant stole company's forklift truck

A sales consultant who stole a forklift truck from his employer, received a community order for one year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Philip Kirby (61) of

Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff Bay, pleaded guilty to stealing the truck belonging to Lift West, Bridgend.

His counsel, Nicholas Gedge, said: "This case is completely out of character. The truck has been returned and he

leads an isolated life, alone in a flat."

Judge Daniel Williams said: "He was an industrious man in the past. He sold the truck and pocketed £2,300, but it was valued at £5,000. Significantly, it was later recovered."

Prosecutor John Warren said that Kirby was employed by Lift West as a freelance sales consultant.

Last December, the manager, Andrew John, discovered during an audit the Nissan forklift was missing.

Enquiries revealed that it had been taken to premises in Southampton, but later returned to Bridgend when Mr John noticed certain serial numbers had been removed.

Recovery costs left the company £800 out of pocket.

Kirby, said Mr Warren, was confronted and revealed he had a cheque for £2,300 which he would pay in to his employer the next day. He failed to return to work.

He later explained to the police that the matter was nothing more than a "misunderstanding".

Mr Gedge conceded that he was involved in a breach of trust, but not to a high degree.

Kirby was ordered to pay compensation to the company of £800 and prosecution costs of £500.

He was made subject to a supervision order for one year and directed to carry out 180 hours unpaid work, plus a victim surcharge of £50.

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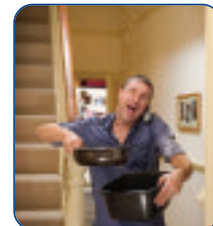
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Bridgend Poppy Appeal's record £46,000 bonanza!

THE Bridgend branch of The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2014 has gone through the roof – with a record charity collection in excess of £46,000.

The committee, along with our regular charity volunteers and with the support of 1092 Air Cadet Sqn, the Glamorgan Counties Army Cadet Force, Litchard, the Explorers Scout Group, the Bridgend Lions Club and Baden Powell Scout Group, all contributed to raising this significant amount in support of the Bridgend Poppy Appeal.

We concentrated our main effort on the large retail stores this year: Sainsbury's, ASDA, Tesco's Brewery Lane and Cowbridge Road, McArthurGlen (The Pines) and for the very first time, Lidl.

"This effort resulted in an astonishing rise in our collection from last year of some £5,000. Smaller businesses topped up this amount significantly, each making great efforts to promote the appeal for which, we are hugely grateful to each and every one.

A presentation was made to Sainsbury's last week for their support in raising £11,631 and



winning the main stores competition. Congratulations go to them for supporting this worthy and worthwhile appeal and for winning the competition this year. ASDA has

consistently won the competition previously, but were pipped into second place in this World War One commemorative year.

However, they showed a tremendous effort, raising some £7,391. Other stores raised sums as follows: Tesco Cowbridge Road £5,192, The Rhiw £3,233, McArthurGlen £2,959, Lidl £2,840, Tesco Brewery Lane £2,810 and the Bridgend Town Centre Poppy Shop £2,070. All other collections were from stores, businesses and individuals from across Bridgend including, St Bride's and Ogmere by Sea.

A special thanks must go to my vice-chair, Mr Johnny Cowdrey, my assistant Poppy Appeal Officer and secretary, Mr Andrew Reekie and Mrs Jodie Taylor, my treasurer all of whom work tirelessly throughout the collecting period, and to all of our sponsors; Bridgend Town Council, The Bridgend United Services Club, The Bridgend Rotary Club, Hd Ltd, The Rhiw, Charter Vehicle Hire, The High Tide, MPCT, our major stores and all those individuals who support and help with our charity collections.

We would like to offer you our very grateful thanks and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

WAYNE B MORGAN
Chairman and Poppy Appeal organiser.



Nathan Wyburn with Brynteg pupils.

Young artist is toast of school as he brings unique style to Brynteg

BRYNTEG Comprehensive pupils were visited recently by Nathan Wyburn, age 24, a Welsh fine art graduate, who specialises mostly in creating iconic celebrity portraits and 'pop culture' imagery with items that you would find around the house.

These include Marmite on toast, ketchup, sugar, chocolate, newspaper cut outs, soil, candles, toothpaste, and even

fake tan. Due to Nathan's artistic flair, his work has been featured on several TV shows including *Britain's Got Talent 2011* where he reached the semi-finals, he was also interviewed on *Daybreak*, *Blue Peter* and *ITV news*.

Nathan has also been on television and social media all over the world, as Good Morning America, New York Magazine, PerezHilton.com, and Buzzfeed and reached the front cover of *The Guardian*.

Big name brands such as Marmite, BIC, Oral B, Costa, Jacobs, Dominoes and Hovis

have all independently commissioned Nathan for his work.

Fitting in with Nathan's busy working life, he also spends a lot of time taking part in charity events to help raise money and is an Ambassador for BulliesOut.

Nathan visited Brynteg Comprehensive School on December 3 to talk about his work. He said one of his favourite portraits of a celebrity was Katy Perry – out of cat food!

Report by Alex Curran (year-9)

Pontycymer concert celebrates Tabernacle's 125th anniversary

Disappointment that raconteur and concert compère, Huw Edwards was unable to attend for health reasons, was speedily overcome, when Bridgend Male Choir began singing at Tabernacle Church, Pontycymer.

Resplendent in dinner suits with red bow ties and wearing daffodils, they had come to entertain the capacity congregation, the second such full house for the Bridgend choristers in six days.

With musical director Rhianon Williams-Hale conducting from the ground floor pulpit, her charges occupied the balconies either side of her – second tenors and bass on her left and top tenors and baritones on her right, offering a balanced, stereo sound throughout this historical place of worship.

The choristers were well received and fully added to the 125th birthday since Tabernacle first opened its doors.

Some difficult piano accompaniments were competently handled by accompanist Stephanie Bailey, which together with organ accompanist Scott Williams, who had also entertained while people arrived, added to

the musical extravaganza.

This is a concert where the 'seniors' make way for two Garw Valley schools to entertain. First up were the 16 year-2 pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Garw, with their wonderful and exclusive Welsh repertoire.

To the carol tunes of 'Away in a Manger' and 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter', they glided through their programme in superb two-part harmony.

The second half saw the larger Blaengarw Primary School choir entertain with equal aplomb.

In contrast, this choir sang in English, including such popular items as 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree'.

The enthusiasm of all the children shone through the whole performance – especially the last item 'In a Stable'.

The recorded music scheduled to accompany this last item malfunctioned, but this did not faze the children.

Featuring three soloists, the choristers sang lustily without accompaniment, deserving the huge applause which followed.

On an evening when not only Huw Edwards could not participate, a poem reading by Mrs Lena Charles had to be

postponed, as was an appearance by harp maker and musician Merlyn Madoc MBE, all of whom were laid low. This did not stop the wonderful playing of one of Merlyn's harps by local schoolgirl, Sarah Taylor. Her performance of 'Little Donkey' deservedly drew much applause.

Before a vote of thanks was given by chapel stalwart Eileen

Price, all choirs and congregation joined together to lustily sing 'Calon Lan', synonymous with the Valley. Eileen acknowledged all the participants and singled out helpers Dave and Joan Davison, for pulling all of the organisation together.

Everyone applauded when she reported that Huw Edwards had committed himself to

another Tabernacle Chapel concert in 2015, provided she was willing!

By that time, it's hoped that all will have returned to better health!

Bridgend Male Choir can next be heard at a free entry Christmas service, at Coychurch Crematorium Chapel at 7pm, Thursday, December 18.

DAVID T BURT

PORTHCAWL WINTER ART EXHIBITION



Wendy Davies Williams, Clive Callan, Jack Davies, Jeff Barnes.

PORTHCAWL Art Society winter exhibition winners were as follows: First prize, Clive Callan – Porthcawl pier; joint second, Wendy Davies Williams – Saffron Robes and Jack Davies – Rest Bay; third prize, Ray John – Mediterranean Grotto. Most Original, unfinished work by Jeff Barnes.

The exhibition is on display over Christmas from Monday to Saturday (11am – 4pm). Go along on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday evening (7pm – 9pm) if you wish to become a member.

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MINI, MEDIUM, MAXI, XL MAXI

New business centre is open in North Cornelly

A 'CENTRE of Rural Enterprise' has been officially opened in North Cornelly, with the help of Bridgend County Borough Council's Green Shoots project.

The project, which has already created two previous centres of rural enterprise in the county borough – at the Sony UK Technology Centre, Pencoed, and a health and fitness centre in the Garw Valley – has part-funded the third centre.

A BCBC spokeswoman said: "As a result, a dilapidated building in Heol Llan, North Cornelly, has been transformed into a business centre now known as the 'Genesis Enterprise Centre' which offers a mix of retail and office space as well as meeting and conference facilities.

"Based on the site of a former lock-up shop that had been unoccupied for 12 years and was in very poor condition, the building was offered to Cornelly and District Development Trust (CADDT) by Valleys2Coast (V2C) along with match funding for essential repairs. CADDT approached Green Shoots for support and were successful with their bid to renovate the building and run the centre.

"The centre now offers 'hot-desking' facilities, serviced office accommodation, space to work and trade from and a meeting and conference room for use by new or existing micro enterprises (enterprises employing nine people or fewer).

"There is also a rear meeting room which is equipped with an interactive white board, tele-conferencing and refreshment facilities."

Adrian Morgan, chief executive officer at the Cornelly and District Development Trust said: "We are absolutely thrilled to get this centre up and running to benefit local businesses, residents and community groups.

"The centre complements the work of CADDT and the provision that we offer. We run various projects that support people to volunteer, access training and ultimately enter employment.

"The Genesis Centre is a great example of partnership working between the council, CADDT and V2C and the good news doesn't end there - we have now taken on a new member of staff to act as receptionist and administrative support to the business start-ups based in the centre. We have three tenants already offering sportswear, pc sales and repairs and cards and gifts."

Coun Philip White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities said: "The aim of the Green Shoots project is to encourage business development and entrepreneurship in rural parts of Bridgend county borough.

"The council has been very proud to support the development of this centre through the Green Shoots project. I am pleased to say that to date, Green Shoots has awarded 130 bursaries, 53 new businesses have been set up and 77 existing micro businesses have been assisted.

"When the Welsh Government approved the Green Shoots project they set a target of 12 new jobs to be created. To date it has achieved 41 and the number is still rising. Ten of these bursaries have been awarded to individuals or businesses in this area alone.

"It's great to see the fund benefiting people in North Cornelly. This new facility not only provides local businesses with access to good quality, serviced office accommodation but it will also assist job seekers with much needed support to find employment."

The Green Shoots project is part of the Bridgend reach Rural Development Programme which has received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2014 which is part-funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Approximately three-quarters of Bridgend County Borough (21 wards) qualify as being rural.

To find out more about the Green Shoots Project in Bridgend County Borough visit: business.bridgend.gov.uk/green-shoots or www.bridgendreach.org.uk.



Attendees at the launch.

Grant for the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme

2,000 reasons to celebrate!



THE Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme has been awarded £2,000 in the Lloyds Bank Community Fund.

Through mentoring support and activities, young people can develop confidence, motivation and skills to unlock their potential.

Over the past 12 years, the Bridge has supported over 900 vulnerable young people.

More recently funding was secured to open a family centre (theZone) which provides a safe and friendly environment for people of all ages to get advice and support, engage in free learning opportunities, or join interest groups, in order to promote emotional health and wellbeing.

Ogmore MP praises Commons campaign on international aid

THE Ogmore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, has welcomed the passage of the 0.7 per cent International Aid Bill through the House of Commons, which enshrines into law the target for the UK Government to spend 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product on development aid, to tackle poverty overseas.

He commented that since this Bill was suggested, residents of Ogmore had worked tirelessly to lobby the Government. He supported the campaign and was there to vote for the binding new law.

"Thanks are due to the church groups and community organisations across the constituency who sent letters and emails, made phone calls and organised campaigns to bring the dream of a poverty free world one step closer.

"Despite stiff opposition from a number of diehard Conservative and UKIP Members of Parliament these efforts have now paid off. The Bill passed

through the Commons, and will now face one more vote in the House of Lords before becoming law.

"It was especially poignant that the Bill was voted on in Parliament on the anniversary of Nelson Mandela's death, who himself was a powerful supporter of the 0.7 per cent aid target.

"Mandela and the people of Wales had a strong link over many years through the terrible years of apartheid in South Africa.

"Their support for

another cause he championed – tackling poverty through aid – is a tribute to him and to the dedication of local people who want to fulfil his dream of ending global poverty."

He added: "From the Gilfach Goch to the Garw, from Llanharan to Llangainor, many faith groups and individual constituents made their voices heard for the benefit of others less fortunate in less prosperous nations of the world."

RINGING IN THE FESTIVE SEASON!

PORTRICAWL Townswomen's Guild has just enjoyed a splendid Christmas party, being royally entertained by the Gilgal Church hand bell ringers with a medley of carols and Christmas tunes.

Also at the party, we presented a cheque for £650 to Lorna Lewis from the Alzheimer's Society – the result of our autumn fayre. Flowers were presented to Ruth Lloyd and Maureen Williams for special birthdays.

We have enjoyed two Christmas lunches – one with the South Wales

Federation and our own lunch at the Bridgend College. We also visited the Pavilion to see a very good play about Edith Cavell. Our tree in the All Saints Church Tree Festival was decorated by Freda and Dee.

Our next meeting is on January 14 at 2pm in All Saints' Church Hall, when Mr David Anderson will take us 'Along the Romantic Road'. We all need romance in our lives don't we? Why not make a New Year resolution to visit us and maybe join us. You will be made very welcome. For more information ring 772157.

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Not long before Christmas and 1,800 elves descend on south Wales for world record!

PHOTOGRAPHS by
RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com
01656 662324

ON Saturday, Bridgend beat the world record for elves with more than 1,800 appearing just before Christmas in the town centre. It was a record previously held by New York.

As you can see from Randell John's images of the day, elves come in all shapes and sizes – a true elf-steddod!



Heronbridge pupils link up with police on re-cycle project

POLICE in Bridgend have joined forces with Heronbridge School on a new project which sees any unclaimed bikes donated to the school.

The pupils repair the bikes and sell them to low income families to encourage them to take up cycling.

"The aim of the Heronbridge Re-Cycles project is to give young pupils from the school the skills to progress into paid employment. The project sees rundown donated bikes being restored and transformed by older pupils in Heronbridge," said Matt Greenwood, social enterprise co-ordinator at the school.

"The aim is also to equip these young people for life after education by giving them some practical skills as well as qualifications in bicycle maintenance, which will go towards helping them to achieve employment once they leave school.

"Only around seven per cent of young people with special educational needs enter employment when they leave school, and this project aims to tackle that problem head on".

PCSO Heather Dobbs said: "We are really pleased that we are able to donate these unclaimed bikes to such a



worthy project. The majority of them have come from a pool of those that we have recovered, or ones that were reported lost or stolen which the owners then failed to claim.

"This is such a great cause and the repaired bikes will be going to good homes. It's great that we can help progress community projects such as this".

Your chance to share the community news...

Laleston WI
THE December meeting of Laleston WI was a Christmas party, hosted by the committee, with the tables beautifully decorated with floral arrangements by Sandra Scott and Barbara Rees.

After the president Margaret Aylen had greeted the members and thanked them all for the delicious buffet they had prepared, the evening proceeded with an amusing quiz.

This was followed by a game of 'Musical Bingo', which also doubled up as a great sing-a-long which was much enjoyed by everyone and the bingo was eventually won by Valerie Lock.

The grand finale of the evening was a short pantomime performed by the committee which generated great hilarity. The members went home with a small gift and their WI programme for 2015. All agreed that it had been an excellent evening and were looking forward to the Christmas meal at the Mason's Arms later in the month.

The next meeting on January 8, at 7.15pm in the Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club), High Street, Laleston will be a musical evening with guest Mr Mike Boyles. Visitors welcome.

For further information, call Margaret on 01656 660384, or Diane on 01656 656600.

School concert
TODAY (December 18) Cynffig Comprehensive School will be holding its Christmas concert at 7pm in the main hall.

Those taking part

will be the school senior and junior choirs, both with solo vocalists, the school orchestra and solo instrumentalists.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, telephone 01656 740294.

Cefn Cribwr events
EVERYONE is invited to join Cefn Gwyrd for its 31st year of carol singing door-to-door in the village on December 22.

The village is too large for the carollers to get round everywhere in one night so different streets are visited each year.

This Christmas it will be John Street, Dale View, Bryn Glas and the Graig. Meet outside the site of the former St Colman's Church on Cefn Cross at 7pm for the first carol. All are welcome to join in the fun, carol songsheets will be provided but please take a torch. For more information, call John or Carole Mason on 01656 742348.

On September 21, there will be a toddlers' Christmas party in the community centre (the green hall) from 3pm to 5pm. It will include a visit from Santa, party games, glitter tattoos and hot dogs! Tickets cost £1, or £3 for a family of four; phone 01656 746623.

Services at St Theodore's
THE following events will be taking place over the Christmas period at St Theodore's Church, High Street, Kenfig Hill.

On December 21 at 3pm children will be encouraged to take part in a Christmas Messy Church.

On December 24 (Christmas Eve) at 4pm there is a children's Nativity service. At 11.30pm, Midnight

mass and blessing of the crib; Christmas Day (December 25) at 10am family Eucharist with carols.

School attendance
TYNYRHEOL primary school acting headteacher Miss Kerry Jones would like to congratulate the children on improvements in attendance for November.

Class 1 attained 91.1 per cent; class 2 – 95.4 per cent; class 3 – 97.6 per cent; children in class 3 were the attendance champions for November and hit the school target of 97 per cent!

The overall attendance stands at 95.1 per cent, but she is still looking for every class to reach 97 per cent!

Kerry chose 'Perseverance' as the value to education last week and certificates have been presented to the pupil who had best displayed this value consistently throughout the week. They were class 1 – Darcey Bennetta; class 2 – Logan Cinderby and class 3 – Noah Pook.

Church services
AT Saint Michael's and All Saints Church, Maesteg tomorrow (December 19) at 7.15pm there will be a Christmas concert with entertainment by Noteworthy mixed voice choir; Affinity, a ladies' choir from Cardiff and international opera singer Laura Parfitt.

Tickets are £7 payable at the door and all funds raised will be donated to Cancer Research.

Saint Bride's Church, Llansantffraid: on Sunday, December 21 at 6pm, there will be a Christmas carol service and everyone will be

welcome, with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

On Christmas Eve, December 24 there will be a Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm.

Saint David's Church, Betws: on Christmas Eve at 4pm there will be a Christingle service with the children of Betws primary school. Everyone welcome.

On Christmas day, there is the Eucharist service at 10am.

Saint John's Church, Aberkenfig: has a Christmas celebration Eucharist service at 9am, everyone is welcome.

Saint Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr: has Christmas celebration Eucharist service with carols at 9am; everyone welcome. The church would welcome volunteers to help with the cleaning of the church on a monthly basis for approximately 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Saint David's Church, Pontycymer: on December 19 at 7pm there is a Christmas carol concert to help raise funds for the church. Taking part will be Blaengarw primary school choir, and stalwarts Cŵr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male choir). Tickets are £3 at the door.

On December 21 there will be an evening carol service at 6.30pm, to which everyone is welcome.

Christmas Eve – a mass at 9pm; Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist at 10am.

St Cien's Church, Llangeinor: There will be a Christmas Eve Mass starting at 11pm.

Walk to Witness: Saturday before Christmas Day everyone is invited to join the walk from Bethlehem chapel, Brynmenyn to Nazareth chapel, Brynethin, setting off at 10am.

Soccer school
CARDIFF City Community Foundation will be running a soccer school during the Christmas holidays for children aged 4 – 16 years old, to experience professional football coaching in a fun and safe environment. Parents can find additional information at www.cardiffcityfoundation.co.uk or 07582 884701.

Treat in store!
OGMORE Valley male voice choir is spreading the goodwill message by entertaining the customers of Tesco store, Bridgend today (December 18) and it will be at Glanyrafon Residential home at 6.30pm to entertain the residents.

On Saturday,

December 20 it will be entertaining customers at ASDA, Bridgend and on December 21 it will be in Sarn at the Tyrisia pub. After this it will have a well-earned rest until the New Year.

Rugby success
OGMORE Vale primary school acting head J Morgan has congratulated the school rugby team, formed from pupils in years 5 and 6. It played in the first two rounds of the interschool competition, reached the quarter finals by beating Bro Ogwr 20 – 0 and had a difficult game against Oldcastle primary, winning by 10 – 5.

It is hoped to play Litchard or Llangewydd primary schools by January 16.

Mynydd Cynffig WI
THE December meeting in Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill was chaired by Marjorie Goode when the minutes were read out by Enid Rymer and approved.

The members discussed the recent trip to Abby Cwm Hir and Christmas dinner and thanked the organiser Ann.

The Christmas

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

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celebrations continued with the party, and members were able to purchase pin cushions made in the craft section and used to decorate the tree. Mynydd Cynffig WI had used in the Christmas tree festival in Margam Park. Money raised will be donated to Friends of the Talbot Centre.

The next meeting is on January 13 in the Talbot Centre.

Ruby concert
CŴR Meibion

Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and district male choir) is holding its ruby anniversary concert in Maesteg town hall on Saturday, January 31 at 7pm.

The choir has had a successful year performing in many parts of the United Kingdom to raise money for various charities.

Two highlights were performing in the Speaker's Apartment in the Palace of Westminster and

singing on the hallowed turf in the Millennium Stadium before the start of the Wales v South Africa test match, under the baton of Haydyn James.

Haydyn James will also be conducting the choir for one song in the annual concert.

Tickets costing £8 are available from Rob on 07969203251, John on 07429637068, any chorister and the Maesteg town hall box office.

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Judge says local man arrested for drugs is 'running out of time'

WHEN police officers arrested a Bridgend man for supplying a class A drug, they discovered that he had booked a £1,600 holiday, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

The flat occupied by 46-year-old Mark Parnell was searched and the "trappings" of heroin use and supply were discovered, said prosecutor Ieuan Morris.

Parnell, unemployed, of Greenmeadows, Coity Road, Bridgend, admitted possessing heroin with intent to supply and possessing cannabis.

He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

Report by AJ SICLUNA

suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order for a year, and directed to take part in a nine-month drug rehabilitation programme.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said: "If you carry on taking drugs or fail to cooperate with the Probation Service, you will inevitably go to prison. It is entirely in your hands."

Mr Morris said that Parnell was found in possession of drugs worth £680, for which he had paid £200.

He was going to sell some of the drugs to his friends, he said.

Parnell was arrested

on October 12 last year by police officers on patrol in Coity Road.

He told the police he had two wraps of heroin in his trousers and the "trappings" of heroin use and supply were found in his flat.

He was said to have previous convictions for possessing cannabis with intent to supply and supplying cannabis.

His counsel, Byron Broadstock, said: "The offences were at the lower end of the scale and he has not been responsible for the great delay in the case coming to court."

Said the Judge: "At your age, you are running out of time. Take advantage of the opportunities offered to you."

Unoccupied house in Newton gutted in blaze



The house at Mallards Reach was gutted by fire. PHOTOGRAPH by MALCOLM NUGENT

ONE of the new houses on the Mallards Reach development off the Newton Nottage Road in Porthcawl, was gutted by fire in the early hours of Saturday morning, December 13.

A resident living in nearby Hookland Road said: "We were awoken at about 3.30am on Saturday morning and saw one of the new unoccupied houses ablaze."

"We contacted the Fire Brigade. By the time they arrived, the fire seemed to have gutted the entire property."

"We were very concerned about the proximity of these houses to our own."

There are only a few yards between the houses.

TWIXTMAS TIME IN BRIDGEND!

BRIDGEND county will be the first Welsh host of Twixtmas – a national campaign to provide an opportunity for families and friends to try new activities, help others, and discover the art of reclaiming valuable quality time during a traditionally dead period in the calendar.

Between January 27 and 31, the #WelshTwixtmas programme will motivate people to try something new, help others, or do things they've been putting off for the rest of the year.

Dec 27: Seek the Naturekeeper's quest through a family treasure hunt in the Bridgend countryside through the council's new 'Dare to Discover' mobile app.

Dec 28: Blitz your environment through a

beach clean-up at Porthcawl's Rest Bay beach.

Dec 29: Learn something new at a 'University of Twixtmas' event at Cwm Tawel Yurts.

Dec 30: Give blood to the Welsh Blood Service or donate food to Bridgend Food Bank.

Dec 31: Walk the stunning Bridgend stretch of the Wales Coastal Path.

BCBC Leader Mel

Nott said: "The

Twixtmas concept is all about transforming the five days between the Christmas and New Year holidays into a unique opportunity that reminds people to reclaim valuable personal time, undertake new experiences and approach 2015 with a fresh outlook for managing their work-life balance over the year ahead."

"Bridgend County

Borough is pleased to be the first in Wales to host the innovative #WelshTwixtmas event. This new initiative joins more established events such as the Elvis Festival and Elfsteddfod as examples of the area's imaginative approach to projects that are delivered in partnership with the local business community, and which also support the development of the local economy.

"I hope that this year's #WelshTwixtmas is a huge success, and that we will be able to add it to our growing portfolio of eye-catching events here in Bridgend County Borough."

A full list of events and tourism opportunities taking place across Bridgend County Borough Council, as well as times, can be found at www.twixtmas.com and www.bridgendbites.com.

Who wants to build what and where?

Conserv of Coity Wallia Common – Coity Wallia (six locations), Bridgend – Six non-illuminated, free-standing signs.

RBS – Natwest, 77 John Street, Porthcawl – Proposed new signage.

Mr Philip Stinton – Derllyn House, Derllyn Road, Tondur – Fell two mature sycamore trees and one mature oak tree.

Bryncethin Rugby Club Ltd – Former Bryncethin Claypits, Blackmill Road, Bryncethin – Three rugby fields.

Mr David Williams – Glynogwr Lodge, Ty Pentwyn, Glynogwr – Erect two log cabin holiday units for equine and/or mountain bike holiday lets and upgrade existing stable.

Mr J Delye – 3 Elm Terrace, Ogmogwr Vale – First floor bedroom extension.

Mr Paul Troakes – Land at Carreg Llwyd, Broadlands – Site access and two detached dwellings.

Pyle Community Council – Rosemount, Pyle Road, Pyle – Install seating area, new access ramp, interpretation panels and landscaping.

Mr Gareth Roberts – 1 Leckwith Court, Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend – Two storey side extension.

Rev Malcolm Stinton – Derllyn House, Derllyn Road, Tondur – Relax conditions 7 and 8 of P/11/265/OUT relating to code for sustainable homes.

Mr Jason Baldock – Bethel Chapel, Commercial Street, Nantymoel – Conversion of chapel to residential unit with parking area opposite.

Mr and Mrs D Griffiths – Rear garden, 13 Salisbury Road, Maesteg – Relax standard condition of P/10/287/FUL to extend period of time to commence works for

further five years. Mr Damian Faulkner – 112A Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Construct a single and double storey side/rear extension.

Miss Gemma Hale – West House, Bryngarn, Rhwceiliog, Bridgend – Proposed two storey extension.

Mr Lance Evans – 8 Severn Road, Porthcawl – Ground floor rear/side extension, modifications to first floor and loft conversion.

Rest Bay Lifeguard Club – Rear of Rest Bay Cafe, Rest Bay, Porthcawl – Relax condition 1 of P/12/917/RLX to extend time period for siting of steel storage container.

Mrs A De Graaf – The Cottage, 34 Esplanade Avenue, Porthcawl – Olivia's Coffee House, 15 Well Street, Porthcawl.

Ms L Evans – 43 Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer – Rear two storey kitchen/bathroom/bedroom extension.

Mr P Wintle – 19 Anglesey Way, Nottage – Two storey rear extension to detached dwelling.

Mr C Howell – The Nellins, West of Maes y Piod, Broadlands – Portal framed agricultural machinery store.

Mr G Davis – Former Chapel site adjacent to 3 Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill – Erection of two pairs of three-bed semi-detached dwellings.

Manning Construction Ltd – FMA Council Office site, Glanogwr Road, Bridgend – Demolish existing offices, divert public footpath and erection of four detached dwellings with integral garages.

Leather sofas are taken from an industrial estate

POLICE in Maesteg are appealing for witnesses, after 19 sets of leather sofas were taken from a trailer in Brynmenyn Industrial Estate.

They said the trailer was locked and securely padlocked; however, thieves broke in and removed 12 sets of black leather sofas and seven sets of brown leather sofas. The furniture is valued at about £11,000.

The theft occurred sometime between 12.45am and 5.45am on Thursday, November 20.

Police Constable Michael Parker

said: "Although the theft occurred on Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, it is possible a member of the public has seen those responsible either driving to or away from the scene."

"We also can't discount the possibility that the sofas are now being offered for sale locally."

Anyone with information about the theft is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400434005. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be called (free and anonymously) on 0800 555 111; or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Gas meter attack

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He could not explain why he had gone to the premises concerned. He also claimed he turned the gas off before attacking the meter and conceded "everything could have gone up".

He added that he

wanted to harm no-one but himself, and at the time had been "off it".

Mrs Davies said in a statement that she had trouble sleeping and worried that on his release from custody Lewis would harm them.

She also said the bungalow could have

gone up, as well as the street, and people could have been killed.

Mr Greenwood said the cost of rectifying the damage was £602.

He also added that in all probability, Lewis had targeted the wrong address.

His solicitor, Timothy Hartland, said: "He has no major mental illness. His problem has been drugs."

"This is in many ways a bizarre case. Clearly, he was in a state and acknowledges the potential danger he caused."

"He is keen to address his situation and his family is fully supportive."

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC told him: "You have caused Mr and Mrs Davies enormous concern and distress, and only a custodial sentence is appropriate."

He added: "The fact that a person commits offences under the influence of drugs is not a mitigating factor, but an aggravating feature."

£5,000 worth of tools stolen in South Cornelly

POLICE in Pyle are appealing for witnesses – after around £5,000 worth of tools were stolen from a van in South Cornelly, Bridgend.

A red Ford Transit van was broken into around 10pm on Tuesday, November 25 on Ty Draw Lane, South Cornelly.

Several Hilti tools were taken from the van, including Hilti chargers,

batteries, drills and wrenches.

Anyone with information, or may have been offered Hilti tools for sale, is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400441485.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111; or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Town traders' window awards

JUDGING has taken place in the Bridgend town window and stall dressing competition.

Stores: Ty Hafan Shop, The Rhw Centre; T & H Morris Butchers, Dunraven Place; Clippaz Hair Salon, Market Street; Hatters Tea Room, Nolton Street.

Rhw Market Stalls: Daffodil Gifts; The Coffee Cabin.

WKU (Welsh Kickboxing Union) is an association of kickboxing and Tae Kwon Do clubs based mostly in south Wales and led by Jeff Copp (7th degree blackbelt).

Jeff set up Bridgend Warriors kickboxing club over 10 years ago and continues to teach and guide students towards a recognised standard of excellence. Early last winter the club relocated from their premises above Cody's public house on Derwen Road to the old Bowling alley above Sax nightclub.

During that time the area has been transformed into a fully kitted out kickboxing gym. The club offers a friendly, professionally led range of classes to people of all ages and abilities from all over the Bridgend county and beyond. Students are able to work through the clubs belt

system or to attend classes purely for fitness or social purposes.

The club has created a nurturing environment where members are encouraged to pursue their personal goals and targets. Several students from the club have gone on to run their own successful classes and clubs supported by Master Copp within the WKU association.

To celebrate the year's hard work at the gym which culminated in the annual two-day black belt grading, Bridgend Warriors invited the town council Mayor Coun Robert Burns to a special kickboxing demonstration and presentation event at the club.

Instructors Claire Vicker and Richard Stonehouse took junior and senior members through their paces to demonstrate a typical class schedule. Recently awarded 3rd degree black belt Claire Vicker and Rachel Griffiths demonstrated their weapons pattern and board breaking skills.

Tom Jones from The Spartans kickboxing club in Cardiff showed off his single stick pattern. Rising Phoenix Tae Kwon Do club came to demonstrate their pattern skills in a fast and slow, light and forceful performance that was truly impressive. After the demonstration Coun Burns and Master Jeff Copp presented students with their black belts.

Shelly Evans and Richard Stonehouse 1st degree black belt, Tom Jones, Bethan Jones, and Rhian Jones received their 2nd degree black belts and Claire Vicker and Rachel Elise Griffiths all received their 3rd degree black belts from Master Copp and Cllr. Robert Burns.

More more information about the WKU, classes or general information, search Bridgend Warriors on Facebook, call 07538605838 or visit www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk.

DA

Porthcawl Comprehensive gearing up for *Grease*

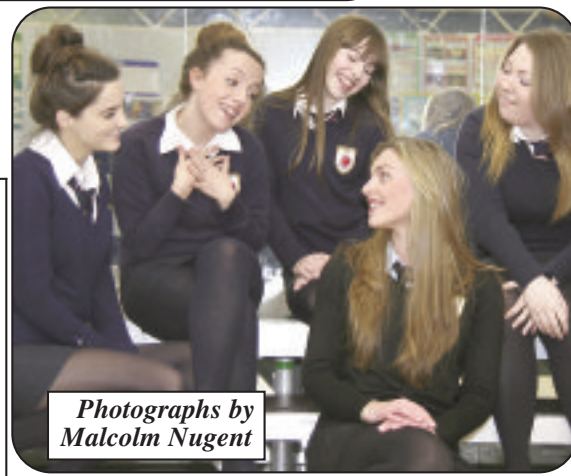


PORTHCAWL Comprehensive School pupils are busy rehearsing for their next musical, *Grease*, at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl from January 28 – 31. Tickets are on sale on 01656 815995 from £6.

The lead roles will be played by Katie Roberts and Jack Davies.

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BUSY YEAR FOR VALE BRASS BAND

THE Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band will conclude their 'mini tour' of the Vale when they give a concert of Christmas music at All Saints Church, Victoria Road, Penarth, this **S a t u r d a y** (December 20) at 7.30pm.

The band has been celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2014 and has performed concerts at Rhooose, Fonmon Castle, Dinas Powys and Penmark throughout the year.

The year started with a joint concert with Porthcawl Male Choir on St David's Day, which

was closely followed by the first competition of the year in Merthyr around late March.

This entailed extra rehearsal time for the test piece 'The Dark Side of the Moon' by Paul Lovatt Cooper. Being relatively new to the competition stage, the band gave a good account of themselves among more experienced competitors.

Musical director David Short introduced new music into rehearsal in preparation for the forthcoming busy concert season. The anniversary concert was held in Rhooose and the band welcomed Robert Westacott as special guest soloist for the week-end.

Robert joined the band

for rehearsal on the Friday and the week-end finished with a social and presentation evening.

No sooner had one concert ended than it was on to the next. The band was invited to play at the First World War Commemoration Day in Penarth where suitable music from the era had to be learned.

The event was held in The Windsor Gardens Bandstand, a venue that hadn't been used for many years and was organised by the Friends of St Augustine's Church. A crowd of over 200 gathered around the bandstand to listen.

The band then had to prepare for the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli where they finished fourth in the 'Own Choice Entertainment' competition, and on the following day presented a programme near Penarth Pier.

After a short break, the band was 'on tour' again, this time playing in the library at Fonmon Castle. The band was warmly received by the audience as well as guest vocalist Patsy Hunt, making her debut with the band.

Then, it was on to the next competition which was held once again in Merthyr. The band were a little unfortunate to finish just outside the

prize positions, missing out on third place by two points.

The autumn concert was held at Dinas Powys, where the special guest soloist was euphonium player Robert Burnett.

So, a busy anniversary year is almost at an end with the final concert on Saturday.

Tickets are £5 and will be available at the door or contact 07917-796841.

The Vale of Glamorgan Band would like to take this opportunity to thank their sponsors, A Class Apart uniform suppliers of Dinas Powys and CJ Contract Travel Services for their support, and to the people of the Vale for attending the concerts this year. **PM**

Vale wins two coveted 'Fields in Trust' awards



THE Vale Council has won two awards at the Fields in Trust awards 2014.

The event saw the council pick up both the local authority Partner of the Year award for Wales and a Centenary Fields Trailblazers award.

The trailblazer award was given to Alexandra Park, which was given official Centenary

Field status by Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion in July of this year.

Llantwit Major Town Council was also the only Welsh finalist for the Partner of the Year award in the Town and Parish Council category.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member and Armed Forces champion for the Vale, said: "I'm incredibly proud of these

awards. A lot of effort has gone in to the parks and fields across the Vale, particularly our trailblazing Alexandra Park, and I think everyone involved deserves huge congratulations."

The Fields in Trust awards seek to recognise and reward some of the many organisations who contribute most to the success of the trust's work.

Friends of the Earth group's concerns over local controversies and actions

BARRY and Vale FoE's last meeting welcomed FoE Cymru director, Gareth Clubb, who spoke about actions FoE Cymru are taking over the proposed M4 route through special environments around Newport; the continued demand for open-cast coal; and the madness of building a racetrack on top of the mountains, at Rassau. All of these

proposals would cause huge environmental damage.

The group felt that development money from the new Funfair and associated housing, should be spent on making Barry Island's Promenade and Frontage more pedestrian friendly, with less parking space and further improvements for public access, including provision for park and ride facilities in the town.

Vale councillor Ian Johnson provided useful insights into proposed mergers

between the Vale and Cardiff/Bridgend Councils.

The group have asked Coun Johnson to cut through the bureaucratic fog the Vale Council have put up over changes to plans for an incinerator on Barry Dock.

Local footpath changes remain a concern – some people are unaware that footpaths still marked on maps lead through their new front doors!

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RUGBY PLAYERS GIVE A £1,000 BOOST TO CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

PICTURED: (from left to right) Cardiff Blues player, Rhys Patchell, general manager of Wessex Garages, Gareth Howells, Rick O'Shea from BBC Scrum V and Cardiff Blues player, Alex Cuthbert at the event at the Wessex Garages dealership.



Lucy and Rhodri 'sparkle' at Ty Hafan pantomime

LUCY and Rhodri Owen brought their own Christmas sparkle to Ty Hafan when they visited the hospice on December 8.

The couple, who are Ty Hafan Ambassadors, have been avid supporters of the charity for many years and were both excited to have been asked to take part in the charity's *Frozen*-themed pantomime.

After handing out presents to children and chatting to families, BBC Wales newscaster Lucy tweeted a photo, and said: "Santa and his little helper had a wonderful morning with the children - great pantomime!"

Ruth Kearney, media and communications manager at Ty Hafan, said: "Rhodri is such a pro at playing Santa and Lucy was an amazing elf! They are such great sports and are fantastic ambassadors for Ty Hafan."

Ty Hafan organises a pantomime in the lounge of the hospice every Monday and Friday in December.

Staff, corporate supporters and families take part in the panto which is just one of the ways Ty Hafan makes Christmas extra special for life-limited children and their families.

To find out how you can support Ty Hafan, please visit www.tyhafan.org.

Town market

COWBRIDGE Country Market will be held on Friday, December 19 (from 9.30am - 11.30am) offering a final chance to stock up on delicious Christmas goods and preserves.

Valeways walks

ON Thursday, January 1 at 1pm, a New Year's Day walk starts at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

RUGBY fans attended a charity fundraising event hosted by a car dealership last week for an opportunity to meet players from Cardiff Blues.

They helped raise £1,017.93 for Ty Hafan at the 'A Night in with the Blues' event at Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road.

"As one of the Cardiff Blues' official sponsors we thought it would be great to host an event so that people could meet some of the players including Alex Cuthbert, Rhys Patchell, Adam

Jones and Jarrod Hocata face to face," said general manager Gareth Howells.

A question and answer session was compered by Rick O'Shea from BBC's Scrum V and a charity raffle had the chance to win a signed personalised shirt, signed rugby ball and a season ticket for the Cardiff Blues for 2015/2016.

"Two limited edition Groggs signed by the players will be going on an online auction soon. All of the money raised during the event and from the Groggs will be donated to Ty Hafan."

NEW FLIGHTS ARE SET TO TAKE OFF!

THE first flight of the north-south Wales air service operated by Links Air departed from Cardiff Airport at Rhose on December 10.

Links Air will operate two daily return flights but at new times to allow for a longer working day at both destinations. Initially, there will be 0740 and 1625 departures from Cardiff on Monday to Thursday, and 0740 and 1525 on Fridays. The return service will leave Anglesey at 0855 and 1740 on weekdays (1640 on Fridays). The introduction of an earlier 0725 Cardiff departure in spring 2015, combined with the later afternoon departure, will offer an extra 35-minutes a day at each destination. Links Air will also connect the service with new commercial routes in spring 2015. The service is supported by the Welsh Government to "improve business connectivity and promote economic growth".

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The GEM would like to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - our next edition is on January 1, 2015.

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IT'S JUST A SNAPSHOT... but campaign group's survey provides interesting views on planned council merger

A campaigning organisation that provides a voice for people who want to see improvements in the town of Barry has run a survey to find out what people think about the Vale Council merging with another authority.

The Williams' Commission has said it would like to see Welsh Councils – currently numbering 22 – halved.

The Vale Council and Bridgend County Borough Council have expressed an interest in merging.

Dennis Harkus of FocusBARRY explained that the survey had been run on the group's Facebook page and described it as "a snapshot of opinions".

Mr Harkus stresses he is not claiming it as scientific, but it is 'grist to the mill' of the debate. So what did the survey come up with?

One question was: How satisfied are you with the Vale Council's strategy with regard to merging councils? A total of 61 people responded: one person (1.64 per cent) was very satisfied; nine people (14.75 per cent) were satisfied; 15 people (24.59 per cent) were dissatisfied; 36 people (59.02 per cent) were very dissatisfied.

Among the comments made by respondents were:

'Some decisions are too important to be made by a select number of people that have a vested interest in making choices that have a conflict of

by GEM REPORTER

interest'; 'Barry has more in common with Cardiff and being allied to the capital city would bring more benefits to the town'; 'Should be a public vote'; 'Would be happier if the Vale stayed on their own, but would rather Bridgend than Cardiff'.

One person suggested a split – west of St Athan and Llantwit should go to Bridgend, east of there should merge with Cardiff.

Another person said the Vale had little in common with Bridgend.

Another question posed was: Do you agree that the Vale Council should seek a merger

with Bridgend?

A total of 61 people responded: 11 people (18.03 per cent) said 'Yes'; 50 people (81.97 per cent) said 'No'.

Some of the comments were: 'Bridgend is the only option unless we want to become a suburb of Cardiff. Not sure either is a particularly good 'fit', but think Bridgend is a better choice'; 'What can Bridgend offer the Vale?'; 'Where is the sense in merging towns like Penarth and Dinas Powys with Bridgend?'; 'No tangible reasons have been given which leaves me deeply suspicious that the merger with Bridgend is purely motivated by political self interest'.

Another question was: Would you prefer that the Vale Council should seek a merger with Cardiff?

There were 61 responses – 41 people (67.21 per cent) said 'Yes'; 20 people (32.79 per cent) said 'No'.

Among the points made were: 'There are green shoots in Barry which may be encouraged to grow. I believe Barry would become one of the Cardiff region's big assets'; 'Cardiff and the Vale have tourism in common and it is such an important part of our economy'; 'Health, education, leisure, work – a merger with Cardiff is the only sensible option'; 'The only problem I have with Cardiff is that they might pile thousands of houses in and around Barry...'

If a merger of the Vale and Bridgend does go ahead it will transgress the commission's recommendation that mergers should not cross health board boundaries.

The Welsh government plans to respond to any expressions of interest on mergers by January 5, 2015.

Sad Seren deserves better start to life

DOGS Trust Bridgend is appealing to local dog lovers to help find a home for their longest serving canine resident, Seren, who came to the charity five years ago as a puppy after being thrown from a car.

Seren has been at the rehoming centre for over 35 years in dog years which means she has been overlooked by over 10,000 potential new owners. Her carers have put together a gallery of Seren through the seasons to show how long she has been waiting for a loving owner to come along.

Seren originally came into Dogs Trust when she was just a year old. She went to a home for a few months in but was sadly returned due to a change in her owner's circumstances.

She has now been back at Dogs Trust Bridgend since August and is one of the centre's long-term residents. Despite her difficult start in life staff have



worked hard gaining her trust and she is such a sweet natured girl who adores people. Her carers think she is overlooked simply because she is a black crossbreed.

Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer Linda Feagan, explains: "I love my job and have

been lucky enough to have seen thousands of dogs find their forever homes over the last five years but nothing could really compare to seeing Seren finding a loving new family of her own in time for Christmas.

"I know I shouldn't have favourites, but Seren is a real star – she is such a gentle, fun loving dog and I have a real soft spot for her. Seren is a friendly and affectionate girl who could live with a family with older teenagers.

"She needs to be with someone who works only part time, as she does like someone to give her lots of hugs during the day."

Anyone interested in rehoming Seren, please visit www.dogs trust.org.uk.

Dogs Trust Bridgend has dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes and, when matching dogs with new owners, staff will consider a wide range of homes and circumstances providing that they will fit the requirements of the dog and provide them with a loving, lasting home.

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NEW RURAL BUS SERVICE HAS A LINK TO BRIDGEND

AS reported in The GEM last week, the Vale Council will be supporting a new bus service between Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Talbot Green from January and "opening up a range of new public transport links across the Vale".

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for transport, said: "I am delighted to announce this new service. Since the demise of the previous bus service on this route, there has been a clear need to establish a frequent regular reliable daytime south-north rural bus link between Llantwit Major, Llandow, Cowbridge and Talbot Green.

"Thanks to the hard work of council officers, this will now be introduced next month."

The new 321 service, which will be operated by New Adventure Travel, will commence on January 5. The route will link with that of the existing 320 supported service which currently runs from Cardiff to Talbot Green via St Georges, St Brides-super-Ely, Peterston-super-Ely, Pendoylan, Clawdd Coch, Hensol and Pontyclun.

As a result, passengers will now be able to travel between destinations such as Peterston-super-Ely and Pendoylan and Cowbridge.

The new 321 will also offer passengers a link to the 303 and 304 services at Llantwit Major, the X2 at Cowbridge and the 404 at Talbot Green.

Kevyn Jones, managing director of New Adventure Travel, said: "We are very pleased to be awarded this contract and we look forward to working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to develop the route into a key bus service in the areas it serves."

As part of the agreement reached with New Adventure Travel reduced fares will be available to passengers aged between 16 and 21 years old on bus services 320 and 321.

During the trial period production of a Vale Young Persons (VYP) card will entitle those aged 16-21 to child fares rather than the full adult price. The commencement date of this trial will be announced in due course.

Assembly cabinet minister Jane Hutt AM said: "I have been working closely with the Vale Council and rural residents with regard to improving village bus services and last month, met with residents and Coun Lis Burnett at the Civic Offices.

"I am delighted that the Vale Council has since secured the new 321 bus service, which will link with existing supported bus service 320 to serve residents in Llantwit Major, Llandow, Cowbridge, Aberthaw and Ystradowen.

"The new bus service 321 will also offer passengers opportunities to link to Bus Service 303/304 (Bridgend to Cardiff Bay via St Athan, Rhosce, Barry, Dinas Powys and Cardiff) at Llantwit Major, Bus Service X2 (Porthcawl to Cardiff) at Cowbridge and Bus Service 404 (Pontypridd to Bridgend) at Talbot Green."

Views sought on Pencoed centre closure

PLANS to close a spare learning resource centre at Pencoed Primary School are being considered by the cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, which has launched a consultation into proposals to close one of the two moderate learning difficulty (MLD) classes at the school from September 2015.

The school is currently able to accommodate 30 pupils with moderate learning difficulties – but only 14 children actually use the service. If the plans go ahead, the council could reinvest £45,000 to fund learning resource centre provision at other primary schools in the county borough.

"None of the current pupils at Pencoed Primary School would be affected, as there is enough space in the one class," said Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people.

"We recognise that Pencoed Primary

School has ample provision for teaching children with moderate learning difficulties.

"By closing part of the MLD centre, we can pool our resources more effectively, while ensuring that there is enough money for other schools in the county borough to provide for children with learning difficulties.

"I would like to reassure parents that no pupils with moderate learning difficulties in the school will be affected by the proposal, as there is enough space in the centre to accommodate them.

"I would urge parents, teachers, staff and governors at Pencoed Primary School to get involved in our consultation and let us know their thoughts."

Festive coffee
THERE will be a Christmas coffee morning at Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, December 20 (from 10am to 12pm).

Books, cakes, bric-a-brac stall and raffle. Entrance £3 with cup of tea or coffee and mince pie. Everyone welcome.

SHOUT group hears of care home findings

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales attended the latest meeting of the Porthcawl Shout older people's forum to provide members with an update on her Care Home Review.

The Commissioner, Sarah Rochira, spoke to 50 people at the event, which took place at Trinity Church Hall, about her recently published report, A Place to Call Home?

Through collecting 2,000 questionnaire responses from care home residents and their families as well as making unannounced visits to 100 care homes across Wales, the review found many examples of person-centred care that delivers the very best outcomes for older people.

However, there were also significant variations across Wales that result in too many older people who live in care homes having an unacceptable quality of life.

As a result of these findings, the Commissioner published a set of Requirements for Action which outline the change that is needed to drive up the



quality of life of older people living in care homes.

To find out more about the work of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, visit www.olderpeoplewales.c

ABOVE:
Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, speaks to Porthcawl SHOUT about her care home review.

BREAST SCREENING

THE Breast Test Wales free mobile screening unit will be situated at Sainsbury's Sarn from January 6 to April 21.

Women aged between 50 and 70 will receive postal invitations to attend for screening, if they are registered with the following surgeries: New Street surgery, Tynycoed surgery, Ogmore Vale surgery, Nantmoel surgery and Cwm Garw practice.

Women aged over 70 will not automatically be invited for breast screening, but can request an appointment by telephoning Breast Test Wales on 029 2039 7222.

Anyone concerned about a breast change, should visit their GP without delay.

For more information, contact your GP practice or telephone Breast Test Wales on 02920 397222.



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Joseph Joseph kitchen ware

Nicole returns to her roots for book signing



Nicole Cooke with Stuart Thom.

Local military college is shortlisted for training award

A PIONEERING college for 16-19 year old military hopefuls, which has a branch in Bridgend, has been shortlisted for 'Training Provider of the Year' in the TES Further Education Awards 2015.

The Military Preparation College (MPCT), which has 16 bases across the UK, including Cardiff and Bridgend, has been chosen as one of six finalists for the prestigious award from over 100 colleges and

training providers. Earlier this year, MPCT was rated Grade 1 Outstanding in every area by Ofsted.

MPCT is run by ex-military instructors, and helps young men and women develop their physical fitness, functional skills and self-confidence. Free to attend, the college operates a 'roll on, roll off' joining process, allowing students to join at any time during the year.

The winners will be revealed at a glittering ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London, on February.

Christmastime at the Sker WI

AT the December meeting of Sker WI, it was with much sadness that members heard of the death of Helgar Clarke, a well liked and respected member.

The trip to the New Theatre to see *White Christmas* was a success and the meal afterwards at The Farmers Arms in St Brides finished the day off nicely.

The Christmas fayre was well attended and enjoyed despite the wind and rain.

After the formal business was completed, it was 'Party Time' and members enjoyed a buffet provided by a local firm with some social time.

The entertainment was provided by the choir Sounds Familiar which went well, with everybody singing Christmas carols.

The next meeting is on

January 8 at St David's Hall, Nottage at 7pm when the resolutions will be discussed. Diana John will give a talk on Japan.

ANN
VIPOND

Local company answers DIY SOS

TOWN & Country bedrooms in Bridgend are featured in the DIY SOS show on BBC 2 this evening at 8pm.

They fitted the main bedroom in a Swansea house.

"It was all for a great cause. The spirit of those taking part was staggering (as ever). Big thanks to Martin and Dean for their generosity in helping us complete the job," said owner Paul Ezard.

A STREAM of cycling fans visited the Bridgend Cycle Centre last Saturday to meet Nicole Cooke and take home a signed copy of her book, *The Breakaway* – a no-holds-barred account of her cycling career.

It was an appropriate location, as Nicole was a regular at the shop in her teens, popping in for repairs after attending Brynteg Comprehensive, as she was cycling to school and back from her home in Wick.

The book, published by Simon & Schuster earlier this year in August, has attracted admiring reviews, and was long listed for the prestigious title of Sports Book of the Year.

Richard Williams, senior sportswriter for the Guardian, had this to say about *The Breakaway*: "Her book is a compelling and salutary account of the price she paid for the victories from which many others will benefit."

Many of those victories were on her bike, and people in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs do not realise how stunning those victories were. She gave notice at the age of 13, winning the under-16 world championship – and that winning jersey is framed and hangs in the Cycle Centre to this day.

Other victories are too numerous to list, but right at the top are the women's Tour de France, and the road race at the Beijing Olympics. Nicole told The GEM that she is still the only British cyclist of either gender to take the Olympic road race.

However, Richard Williams' quote refers to another set of battles that she fought – against a male-dominated British cycling establishment that she was never able to work with.

Speaking in Bridgend, she said: "I think that women cyclists get a better deal now when they concentrate on the track, but it will still be a struggle for anyone who wants to concentrate on road racing, as I did."

A further fight was on the issue of drugs in cycling – another issue where Nicole brooks no compromise. She wants all drugs cheats thrown out.

Nicole's success was down to talent, of course, but allied to that was a ferocious work ethic. Despite her cycling success as a teenager, she still left Brynteg Comprehensive with excellent A-Level grades.

When she retired at the age of 29, she tackled a dual challenge. She wrote this book and at the same time studied for an MBA at Cardiff University. She completed both in one year, and kept up with her cycling by riding from Wick to Cardiff every day!

Stuart Thom now owns the Cycle Centre, but when Nicole was in her teens, he was an employee there. He told The GEM: "Nicole was so keen on cycling. She just wanted to get on a bike. She was never interested in finding a bike that was faster than another – she always seemed to feel that she could go quicker than any other cyclist on her own efforts."

The Breakaway is published by Simon & Schuster. Philip Irwin

Roof refurbishment at Bridgend indoor market is completed

A £600,000 refurbishment of the roof at Bridgend indoor market has been completed in time for the busy festive season. The work, which took four months to complete, has also seen the old unsightly skylights being replaced with clear sun pipes that have improved the lighting as well as an upgrade to the market's air conditioning system.

Shoppers can also now browse the internet while

in the market, as free WiFi has been installed. Coun Mike Gregory, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for resources, said: "This major refurbishment work has modernised the historic Bridgend indoor market."

"The improvements will benefit customers and traders, and I would like to thank everyone for their patience while the work was carried out."

"There was some disruption, which was unavoidable for a project of this scale, but that disruption was kept to a minimum and it was very

much 'business as usual' in the market while the refurbishment took place overhead."

The market not only kept trading during the roof works, but also saw some new additions, with Tied Flowers, Golden Charter and Science Fiction Collectables all opening stalls in the market in the last couple of months.

Nigel Mably, of the Science Fiction Collectables stall, said: "Having been born and raised in Bridgend, I'm delighted to have joined the town's market tradition."

"The other traders have been very welcoming and taken an interest in my products."

"Shoppers have also given me a very positive reaction and are pleased to see my products and brands available in Bridgend rather than in Cardiff or online."

Coun Gregory added: "Market trading is a proud part of Bridgend's heritage, with the present day market offering a wide range of goods including fresh produce, gifts, clothes, jewellery, flowers, and books."

"The local community has always shown excellent support to the traders there, and I hope that the refurbishment will help encourage even more people to visit the market as they stock up on treats for Christmas."

Images by
MALCOLM NUGENT.



Jenkin Henry Tea hosted in Porthcawl



FRIDAY, December 12 saw the 95th annual event of the 'Jenkin Henry Tea', a special event organised by the Porthcawl Town Council to commemorate a special fund set up originally by Mr Jenkin Henry to provide an annual afternoon Tea to "some of the oldest native inhabitants of the town" at Christmas.

The recipients of the fund this year were: Mrs Mair Harri, Miss Cecile Jones, Mrs Sarah Morgan, Mrs Joan Hughes, Mrs Florence Bainbridge, Mr Philip Howell, Ms Josephine Burrell, Mrs Eileen Evans, Mrs Mary Evans, Mrs Valerie Thomas, Mrs Sylvia Thomas, Pat Roberts, Mrs Julia Morris, Ms Rose Power, Mrs Jeanne Rees, Mrs Rona Suter.

The event presided over by the

Mayor Coun Sean Aspy and Consort Mrs Pat Aspy, was preceded by an entertaining slide show and talk presented by Ceri Joseph of the Porthcawl Museum Society about Porthcawl's connections and residents involved with the First World War.

Following the tea the Mayor presented some gifts, a commemorative plaque and certificate to each of the participants. MN

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Out and About with The GEM

Battle of Five Armies brings The Hobbit trilogy to an epic, if flawed, conclusion...

IT scarcely seems like it was 13 years ago that Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy opened up with *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Fast forward to 2014, and Jackson is now closing out his second *Rings* trilogy, ending *The Hobbit* with the epic-sounding *The Battle of the Five Armies*.

Picking up where last year's *The Desolation of Smaug* ended (with the titular fire breather heading to Laketown to

reign fire and destruction upon its residents), we see Bilbo (Martin Freeman) and the band of elves he is working with, led by Thorin (Richard Armitage) forced to engage in a war against an array of combatants all intent on claiming their share of the gold from Smaug's recently vacated mountain (not a lot then); while Gandalf (Ian McKellen), last seen imprisoned, must get free to help his friends in their hour of need...

When Peter Jackson wrapped up *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy with *The Return of the King*, it capped a truly

mesmerising and incredible series of films, the likes of which we hadn't seen realised on the big screen before.

Now, as Jackson closes *The Hobbit* trilogy, it's in a world that has seen more than its fair share of fantasy both fair and foul; that these films have lacked the bite of yesteryear's successes is as much down to that as the fact that the *Hobbit* films may have been epic in scale and scope, but have been lacking in real drama and urgency.

It's the same story this time around, as *The Battle of the Five Armies* may be technically accomplished, delivering the big action moments you expect, but sadly fails to push things on that extra gear, particularly on an emotional level.

Jackson and company's decision (for profit or 'artistic merit') of taking the slim

pickings of the source material and spreading them over three films, and eight hours, starts to come undone here. The narrative feels padded out in certain areas with some story strands feeling shoehorned in.

One particular nod to Legolas about a ranger he should keep an eye on is particularly toe-curling, or just left dangling, inexcusable in a film with a 160 minute running time.

The film does parlay some modern-day concerns via the medium of Middle Earth. You have the innocents of Laketown reduced to refugees after their town has been (fire) bombed by a (scaly) despot, the nature of greed and avarice fuelling conflict rather than out-and-out hatred, which are nicely handled and do give the script a little more steel in places.

Jackson's ability as a director is



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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unquestionable, yet here there is a feeling of throwing everything to the wall and delivering a finale that comes laden with bucket loads of bombast; yet while Jackson is at his best breaking the rules, the action here plays out pretty much as you'd

expect. It may be churlish when the film (some slightly poor CGI aside) doesn't scrimp on these epic moments, but you can't help but feel they are executed with a sigh rather than a scream. The Jackson of Pelennor Fields or Helm's Deep was pushing the envelope, but the titular battle here lacks the same hunger.

What Jackson does do well is manage to maintain the narrative thrust throughout the battle; as action moves from character to character, you do find yourself swept along for the ride as the emotional tension amplifies.

It is here that Jackson is at his best, the style and drama of the closing set-pieces feeling a world away from the general (and generic) battle going on elsewhere.

On the acting side there are highs and lows;

Martin Freeman as he has been throughout is a tremendous presence, the actor a fine fit for Bilbo's transformation from petty burglar to hardened war veteran.

Richard Armitage offers a Shakespearean turn as Thorin's intentions go from noble to greedy, Billy Connolly's small turn as Thorin's grumpier cousin is a highlight, Orlando Bloom's Legolas does a neat line in crazy stunts; but both Evangeline Lilly and Aidan Turner are undone by their romantic subplot that just doesn't convince.

It's a shame that this finale ends with arguably a whimper rather than a bang, especially as Jackson's return to the director's chair made *The Hobbit* trilogy such a tantalising proposition; however these films have lived in the shadow of the ... *Rings* trilogy, despite the

best efforts of both Jackson and his cast, and sadly, for the closing chapter, *The Battle of the Five Armies* is less Middle Earth and more Mordor Earth.

VERDICT – An epic but disappointing closer for *The Hobbit* trilogy, *The Battle of the Five Armies* doesn't lack spectacle but is lacking in an engaging narrative. The performances pass muster, and Jackson is incapable of making a film unwatchable, but it doesn't coalesce into a satisfying piece of work overall. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (2001-2003), *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (2012).

Screen Talk would like to wish all readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D857:

● £7,000 rollover: 145836.

● £2,000: 474939.

● £10: 515729.

170634, 598313, 247207,

258008, 154098, 477870,

437422, 851818, 286141,

643521, 217521, 927315,

855547, 740966, 913353,

555822, 454939, 567782,

549970.

● £5: 878680,

866836, 947469, 258650,

481162, 184765, 537321,

178096, 571511, 802482,

833254, 708044, 477765,

576604, 119481, 414157,

844776, 356439, 137992,

418326, 389657, 903157,

882497, 651851, 675326,

314605, 487524, 391130,

642259, 152497, 767883,

441366, 448207, 209804,

144445, 348702, 387737,

542291, 395419, 577571,

251450, 787100, 974740,

478053, 321917, 844882,

325448, 328532, 980400,

766292, 612552, 250262,

784605, 511960, 1418,

1243, 2043, 1414, 1986,

1005.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA

Festive partners

BARRY Communities First, in partnership with Parkside Christian Centre, invites local residents to a 'fun-filled Christmas event' tomorrow (Friday, December 19) 4.30pm – 6.30pm at Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way, Barry.

There will be a magician, Christmas arts and crafts, decoration making – and a visit from Father Christmas.

For more information, contact 01446 709432, or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Lib-Dem surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, Welsh Liberal Democrat AM for South Wales Central, will be at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm on December 19.

Residents with any issues of concern are encouraged to go along. No appointment necessary.

Carols and festive quiz

THERE will be a festive carol service at 6.30pm in St Hilary Church, on Sunday, December 21. It will be followed by The Bush Sunday festive night quiz at 8pm.

Entry £1 per person – winning team takes all! Higher or lower restarts, first and third Sundays of the month.

All Saints' Christmas services

IT'S going to be a busy week in the parish of Penarth All Saints'. On December 21 at 10am, the Sunday School and youth group will present their Nativity play. Any visiting children are welcome to come dressed as angels or shepherds and join the fun!

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At 6pm on December 21, the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

On Christmas Eve the popular crib service will be held at both 2pm and 4pm with Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

Finally, on Christmas Day at All Saints' Church there will be Holy Eucharist at 8am and a family service at 10am, with Holy Eucharist at St Peter's Old Cogan at 11am.

Visit www.allsaintspenarth.org.uk for details.

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The winner of our competition was:

Mrs C Sims of Barry

Mrs Sims was nominated by her daughter-in-law to receive a prize of a free bedroom carpet.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Our GEM Facebook winner for December 11, 2014 is:

Anthony Golebiowski

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Congratulations, Anthony!

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Glamorgan GEM

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Speakers regale Dinas Powys Probus club

THE December 9 meeting at Dinas Powys Probus club, was the annual occasion for 'An Assemblage of Members' Tales' – when members have the chance to address the club on absolutely nothing!

First up was Alan Smith, the club's favourite grump. He opened with an account of his hunt for the perfect combined potato/apple peeler. Good on spuds, no good on apples.

Eventually, he found a decrepit one in a junk shop and after considerable work with a file, he can now peel spuds and apples with a single implement!

Having further complained about twisting telephone cables, under-sized washing-up bowls, ironing boards and motorway signs, he finished by commenting on British Gas adverts which offer to carry out electrical repairs. Can they now put gas down wires he wonders? Warm applause from the floor.

Next up was Arthur Coxon (Royal Navy, retired) 'A Moment Alone With Royalty.' In 1968, he was seconded to become Squadron Commander of the Kenyan Navy. His first official function was to organise a trip in a patrol boat for Emperor Haile Selassie, the Lion of Ethiopia.

In passing, Arthur reminded members that rumour had it that the Emperor could trace his blood-line back to an illicit meeting between the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon.

The official party were all onboard at Mombasa when it was

discovered the Emperor's dog, a chihuahua named Lula, had been left in the royal car, and as Haile would not go anywhere without Lula, everyone scrambled off the boat leaving Arthur alone with the Emperor.

He was directing him down to his cabin when he cracked his head on a low lintel. Arthur had visions of death by the burning spear, but fortunately he was not badly hurt.

The courtiers returned with the dog, which was promptly trodden on by a seaman with size 16 boots.

Arthur remembered him with affection and found him to be a pleasant man with no sense of arrogance. Having spent the war in Britain, he was killed in 1975 during a Marxist uprising and was buried under his palace toilet as a mark of contempt. Again, warm applause.

The third speaker was Geoff Thomas and once again content was of a different nature from what had gone before.

It concerned the decline in many aspects of our native tongue, and the efforts apparently being made by a totally fictitious pressure group named United Kingdom Restore English Party, named UKREEP for short.

This was a group seeking to restore the purity of the language of Shakespeare.

The basis of the presentation was to show how the language has declined by presenting examples of what has become universally known as business speak.

The vote of thanks was given by Ceri Jones, who congratulated all the speakers on behalf of the members.

Commissioner's team meets Sheltered Housing Forum

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team attended a Dinas Powys meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Sheltered Housing Forum to outline projects under way, such as work to help to preserve vital community services that older people rely on and the recently published report, A Place to Call Home?

This sets out actions to improve the quality of life of older people living in care homes in Wales.

Around 20 people – representatives of sheltered complexes in Llantwit Major,



The Older People's Commissioner's engagement co-ordinator, Kate Hughes, talks to the group at the meeting in Dinas Powys.

Cowbridge, Barry, Dinas Powys and Penarth, meet every two months to discuss issues affecting some or all of the complexes with

A WELSH scientist from Wenvoe has been granted £5,000 by the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, as the winner of their Gold Award 2014.

Ben Palmer (28) was chosen for his contribution towards science and his research into the future of advanced optical materials such as X-Ray and photonic crystals.

The former student at Cardiff University obtained a first class honours degree in chemistry and a PhD in solid state chemistry. Following postdoctoral research at Swansea University, he became Dean of Faculty Fellow in the department of structural biology at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, earlier this year.

Ben has already received numerous awards at both undergraduate and postgraduate level for academic excellence including the prestigious Koshland Prize from the Weizmann Institute of Science.

His research has been widely published in internationally leading science journals and he has also authored a book chapter in a major reference work in solid state chemistry.

The former Barry Comprehensive School pupil has already used some of the funding for travel costs to various academic institutions and conferences, including the University of Amsterdam and the International Gordon Conference on Biomaterialization, New Hampshire, USA.

He will use the remainder of the money to enable him to attend and deliver a research lecture at the International Chemistry Conference of the Organic Solid State (ICCOSS) in Japan next summer.



Former Barry student, Ben Palmer at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, where he is currently Dean of Faculty Fellow in the department of structural biology.

Ben said: "Winning this award will have a decisive impact on my prospects of establishing an independent academic career and will also serve to improve and deepen my development as a scientist."

"At this vital stage in my career, where I am taking my first steps towards independence, it is absolutely critical that I continue to publish high quality papers and effectively disseminate and raise the profile and impact of my research and the Gold Award will greatly assist me with this."

The aim of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales' Gold Award is to support a young person who has demonstrated a major contribution to the arts, science or technology for the benefit of the people of Wales.

Wayne Warlow, Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales said: "We are delighted that we have been able to assist someone of Ben's talent and dedication to science."

"For someone of his age, his accomplishments are fantastic and we are looking forward to seeing him achieve even more in the future."

SALLY PIONEERS INTERN SCHEME AT ASSEMBLY

A groundbreaking internship, created by patient and carers charity Crohn's and Colitis UK, placed Sally Coughtrey (from the Vale of Glamorgan) with Assembly Lib Dem Leader Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire) on a 12 week paid placement.

A spokesperson explained: "The programme is designed to provide a unique opportunity for young people whose career prospects are often otherwise blunted by their Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) – more commonly known as Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis."

"The aim of the scheme is to help young people with these chronic life-long conditions overcome employment barriers. To date, this new initiative has proved popular with both MPs and interns alike, providing the young people with significant career boosts."

Sally – who has Crohn's disease – commented: "I have already had the opportunity to work on a new Bill currently before the Assembly on public health. I have been critiquing the Bill and suggesting ways it can be amended. I have also been asked to write briefings for Assembly Members on a number of different areas, including culture and poverty and the Armed Forces."

A pilot programme was successfully launched earlier this year, placing two candidates with MPs at Westminster, with one candidate now employed as a Parliamentary Research Aid for her MP.

There are an estimated one in 250 people living in the UK with IBD and more than

50 per cent of new cases are diagnosed before their mid-twenties.

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Ed Wilson, deputy chief of staff to Kirsty Williams AM, said: "Sally hasn't been phased once with any of the varying tasks we've given her and she's coped brilliantly despite being thrown in at the deep end with hefty legislation to wade through!"

"She's proven to be a great asset to our research team."

PACT meetings

GIBBONS DOWN PACT at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, January 5 at 7pm.

CADOC PACT at Palmerston Community & Learning Centre on January 7 at 6pm.

COURT PACT at The Witchill Community hall, Dyfan Road on January 8 at 6pm.

CASTLELAND PACT The Civic Offices, Holton Road on January 19 at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road, Dinas Powys on January 5 at 7pm.

COFFEE & CHAT at The Green Dragon, Llanccadle on January 8 at 11am.

COWBRIDGE PACT at Cowbridge Fire Station, Druids Green, on January 19 at 11am.

ST AUGUSTINE PACT at the hall in Belle Vue Park, off Albert Road, Penarth on January 21 at 7pm.

LLANTWIT PACT at Llantwit Leisure Centre on January 21 at 7pm.

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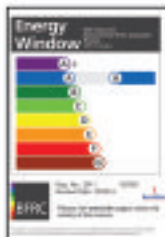

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Regular surgeries held
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often beset by strife, 'Blessed is
the peacemaker' and 'goodwill
to all men' are universal ideals
that stand the test of time –
and which all men of goodwill
should be happy to share.

Christmas is also a time for
the whole community to share
and extend greetings, as 2014
slips away into the history
books and another year awaits
its turn in the wings.

The GEM, too, would like to
take the opportunity to add our
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The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan
Council extends
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residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.
**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**

**Mae'r Cyngorydd
Howard Hamilton**

Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn
Cyfarchion yr Wyl i holl drigolion y Fro.

**Nadolig Llawen a
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda**

**VALE OF GLAMORGAN
Labour Party**

Would like to wish
the Community a
Very Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful
New Year!

Father Christmas drops into the Sandville Centre

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KEITH E MORGAN

LOCAL charity, the Sandville Self Help Centre, welcomed a special visitor from the North Pole recently!

As you can see from Keith E Morgan's images everyone was thrilled to meet Father Christmas, young and old alike!



Broadcaster guest stars at Bridgend Business Forum

WRITER, broadcaster, former MP and Government Whip, Gyles Brandreth entertained an audience of 120 business people and dignitaries with his razor-sharp wit at the Bridgend Business Forum's Christmas lunch on Friday, December 12.

With no notes and a perfectly pitched performance, Gyles treated guests to a thoroughly entertaining afternoon of stories and anecdotes about his time as an MP at Westminster and his roles as Lord Commissioner of the Treasury and royal biographer of the Queen and Prince Philip.

Among the dignitaries at the lunch were Alison Hoy and Ian Jessopp, chair and vice-chair of the Bridgend Business Forum, the Mayor Coun Gary Thomas and his consort, Kay Jenkins, the chief executive of Bridgend County Borough Council Darren Mepham and council leader Mel Nott and his wife, Yvonne.

Chair Alison Hoy thanked guests for their continued support of the Bridgend Business Forum over the past six years and highlighted some key achievements



from the last 12 months, saying: "I'm pleased to say that the forum is thriving – increasing on average by 100 members per year – we are now nearing our 600th member."

Guest speaker at the Bridgend Business Forum lunch at the Coed Y Mwystyr Hotel last Friday was broadcaster and former MP Gyles Brandreth.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDELL JOHN

Pantomime, Dylan Thomas, Rat Pack and Sumo wrestling!



A festive all stars variety Christmas dinner was held by Bridgend Rotary Club at the Heronston Hotel.

Hosted and compered by Rotarian Hopkin Joseph, the acts included, a pantomime written by Rotarian John Ward; a piece of Dylan Thomas drama read by Rotarian Allan Jones; a solo Rat Pack performance by Rotarian Wayne Morgan; and a demonstration of the ancient art of Japanese Sumo wrestling by Rotarian Edward Jones and branch president Sue Cassidy.

Sue also thanked the Heronston Hotel and their staff for a wonderful evening.

WM



Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning
(Development Management Procedure)
(Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2014/01392/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Extension and alterations of existing property to form 9 self-contained residential apartments
Location/Lleoliad: 2, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent/
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2014/01416/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Provide a new porch to the front entrance to dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: The Pheasant House, Nash Manor, Cowbridge
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 18 December, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

'Cardiff merger would be retrograde step'

AS we come to the end of the year, it would be good to review what has happened in the Vale of Glamorgan and during our term in office. Therefore, in my next column I intend to review what has happened in the council.

I will wait until then, as much still needs to be decided before December 31, particularly in relation to the council decision over the possible way forward on the reform of local government, and whether or not the Expression of Interest in merging with Bridgend Council will be agreed by the full council meeting on December 15.

I know that when the original proposals were considered, I was very vocal about the recommendations of the Williams Commission to merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council. I did so because I believed the recommendations were flawed, and felt that at that time I had no option but to take a stance and inform the Welsh Government that I would not support such a merger.

My stance has not

changed and it will not change in the future. I believe that a merger with Cardiff would be a retrograde step and the people of the Vale would be seriously disadvantaged.

We would, in my opinion, be subsumed. All the good work that we have achieved will be lost and we would not be an equal partner in the relationship. We would lose out on service delivery, as we did in the past, during the existence of South Glamorgan County Council, when there was a serious underinvestment in areas such as education.

What people forget is that South Glamorgan Council only dealt with the strategic services such as social services, highways, education, trading standards, strategic planning and strategic economic development.

What is also sometimes forgotten is that we also had a Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, which dealt with the services closest to the people such as housing, leisure, environmental health, licensing, waste management (street cleaning and refuse collection etc).

The newly merged authority would see all of these services

transferred and I believe these services would not be as effective or efficient and meet the local needs as they are now and that we would become the poor relation to Cardiff.

We waited for a reaction from Welsh Government, which took a year or so and as a result, as with everything in life, things move on. In this case, the Welsh Government decided to do two things. Initially, they began a consultation process asking councils for an official response to the Williams Commission recommendations.

Confusingly, during that initial consultation period the Welsh Government asked for councils to consider whether they would agree to any voluntary merger proposals.

They could either conform to the Williams Commission proposals or consider other alternative and different merger proposals (possibly because of the negative reaction to those recommendations).

Regrettably, and again confusing matters even further, after issuing the voluntary merger proposals, the Welsh Government Minister responsible for local

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

government made his intentions abundantly clear and confirmed that there would definitely be local government reorganisation – and it would happen “with or without” our support.

He also confirmed that stand-alone councils such as the Vale were not an option. The Vale Council initially responded to the first consultation document by confirming that they did not want to merge with Cardiff under any circumstances and wanted to stand alone.

However, subsequently, and bearing in mind the Minister's announcement, the Vale Council agreed to explore if we could merge with another council of a similar size and with a similar ethos that could provide services to the people in a similar manner to the

important to note that so far, all that has been agreed by the Vale of Glamorgan cabinet is the submission of the ‘Expression of Interest’.

We are at the start of what could be a lengthy process and which will ultimately rest with a decision taken by the Welsh Government.

I will, however, ensure that whatever happens or is decided by Welsh Government, everyone will be kept informed of the outcomes and the processes that need to take place, but that may take some years to come to fruition.

REMEMBERING THEM

I WOULD now like to turn to other matters. Last month I referred to the Armistice Day commemoration on November 11, but since then both myself and the Mayor were asked to represent the council at a World War One commemoration at our twin town, Mouscron in Belgium, along with the other twinning towns of Fecamp in France and Rheinfelden in Germany.

The Belgian people are very respectful of the efforts of the Allied forces during that time, as well as respecting the soldiers of the German army, both of whom

served their countries during these futile conflicts.

Mouscron is in the area of Wallonia and within the area known for trench warfare in Flanders. During the visit we were very proud to lay wreaths at the Berkshire Regimental Memorial in ‘Plugstreet’, so called because the British troops could not say ‘Ploegsteert’.

It was an honour to be asked to represent the Vale of Glamorgan at these commemoration events. At the site, there is also a very impressive memorial along with an interactive museum, which was extremely informative.

We also had the opportunity to visit several of the very many cemeteries and memorials in the area, which included the site of the Christmas Day football match between the British and German troops, during the truce on that day.

It was also very poignant that the visit coincided with the opening of a new memorial to this event.

What impressed most was the way in which the locals volunteered to look after the sites and give the presentations at the memorials and carry out the weekly ceremonies, recognising

those who lost their lives representing their country, no matter on which side they fought.

I would recommend a visit either in person or via the Plugstreet website if you want to know more.

On a deservingly occasion I was also very pleased to be invited to St James' Palace in London representing the council at the ceremony for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards being presented to young people from across Britain, but also to 12 very deserving young people from the Vale of Glamorgan.

Although I was not able to talk to each of them personally, due to the way in which the event was organised, I would like to send them my personal congratulations and wish them well for the future.

I was also pleased to represent the Vale as we have extremely good links with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and it was announced that St Donat's College and Beechwood College are now accredited with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, whose representatives were also present on the day.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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FONMON APIARY NEWS by HAROLD WILLIAMS

Get 'hands-on' experience of beekeeping this winter

WINTER temperatures are certainly controlling the activities of the Honeybee colonies now; anything less than 10°C, and there is a distinct lack of external sightings of colony occupants.

Honeybees do not hibernate; with the onset of external wintertime temperatures they form a cluster within the hive and there they achieve a temperature that allows them to move to their food stores and of course remain alive until better times come along i.e. spring.

It is imperative that the hive containing the colony is weatherproof; if this is not the case the bees will struggle to control things and may well not survive at all.

All of the colonies will now be left undisturbed until March or April; by this time the days will be lengthening and spring will hopefully bring higher temperatures and our bee year will begin afresh.

However, although the bees have stopped working the beekeeper must set to and see to it that equipment now not in use is stored correctly, and by that I mean that all wax combs are secured in vermin proof

containers; if not you will surely get a visitation from mice and they will render said combs unusable.

Prior to storing your combs, it is also necessary to examine them carefully because we have two little creatures that will be very happy for their larvae to utilise your combs as a winter home even though you have prevented the mice from getting at them.

What are these creatures? They are two species of wax moth and their aim is to lay eggs in any cracks or crevices in the hive or in your honey frames.

The bees can usually cope within the hive but it requires the beekeeper to treat any frames scheduled for winter storage with acetic acid, and this will check the development of any eggs or larvae before they can render the combs unusable.

This is also the time to clean up the queen excluders, smoker, hive tools and, of course, all of the super boxes that will be used to contain your honey frames come next year. Having everything clean and ready for immediate use next year is what we are aiming for. Sadly, this is not the case in many instances.

This year has seen the pollinating insects responding to the favourable conditions - one insect that has not appeared in its

usual numbers has been the wasp! It has shown up but it has not been seen around the hives, as it normally would be.

The varroa mite is still with us and will be for the foreseeable future. As I have done in the past, I am still designated as a sentinel apiary beekeeper.

This means that I have to look out for any of the coming threats to our colonies from alien species. Regular inspections throughout the beekeeping year and reporting to the NBU my findings, or lack of them, will help in our efforts to assist the honeybees' survival.

A new training apiary within the grounds of Dyffryn Gardens has now been established. Come next spring, those who will be new to the craft of beekeeping can get hands-on experience, along with other aspects of beekeeping and hopefully become beekeepers in their own right.

A visit to Cardiff beekeepers' site on the web will furnish contacts for people who wish to enquire about courses for the coming year 2015.

I have a lot of equipment to clean and must push on if I am to be prepared myself for the coming 2015 season.

Pupils' tour de force on the Yellow Brick Road!



The cast of The Yellow Brick Road. Photo by Scott Nelson

ON December 10 and 11, the Barry Comprehensive School hall was transformed into the magical land of Oz for this year's Christmas pantomime The Yellow Brick Road.

The script (written by Mr Ian Piekieniak) was loosely based upon The Wizard of Oz and featured all of the original characters from the film, including Dorothy (Miss K Walters) Scarecrow (Harry Morgan Grant) Tin man (Joel DeGaetano) Lion (Tom Bowen

and Jamie Brown) and the Wicked Witch (Mrs A Ellis), as well as some special appearances from Snow White (Mrs J Lander) and Batman (Daniel Broadbent).

The performance played to two sold out audiences with many commenting that "that was the best yet" and "It was funnier than the one in Cardiff"; and another stating "I saw Wicked in London last week and this (The Yellow Brick Road) was much better".

Once again, the drama department couldn't be more proud of all the performers on stage and the technical team behind it. Putting together a

show like this in just two weeks requires dedication, commitment and exceptional teamwork, which everyone involved had in abundance!

The school pantomime has become an annual event over the last 10 years and is one that both staff and pupils look forward to.

On behalf of the cast and crew of The Yellow Brick Road, we would like to thank everyone who came along and lent their support during the week. We would also like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year! **AC**

Star lights up the Ty Hafan Christmas panto

WELSH actor Craig Roberts has joined in the fun of Ty Hafan's Christmas pantomime.

The film and TV star, best known among those at Ty Hafan for his roles in hit children's show The Story Of Tracy Beaker and CBBC's Young Dracula, dropped by to watch its Disney-themed panto as part of the hospice's Precious Moments campaign.

He is calling on the public to contribute towards creating more special moments for children, especially during the festive season, after taking time out from his busy schedule to support Ty Hafan this Christmas.

Craig said: "The work that Ty Hafan does is incredibly important. The staff and volunteers working at the children's hospice do the most remarkable job to ensure that children and their



Micheal Gooding with son David, Craig Roberts and Santa.

families can celebrate Christmas with the care and the support that they need, and I am honoured to be here."

Craig recently finished work on his directorial debut Just Jim starring Emile Hirsch, which will be released in September.

Meanwhile Ty Hafan wants people to talk about their own 'precious moments' through social

media in the run up to the Christmas season and help continue providing support for life-limited children across South Wales in 2015.

Jenna Lewis, head of individual giving at Ty Hafan, said: "Life is all about those precious moments so we want people to think about their own most special memories and share them

online. The support that Ty Hafan provides extends further than our hospice and is delivered in the family home, at hospital and in schools across Wales. Our hope is that the public will support our Christmas appeal so we can continue providing families with precious moments which they can cherish forever."

It costs £3.7m a year to provide the charity's state-of-the-art facilities at Sully and its support services to families out in the community.

An individual donation of £23 would provide an hour of care and support to a child and his or her family, but the charity is urging people to donate what they feel able to, as the whole operation depends on the generosity of the public.

To make a donation please visit www.tyhafan.org/ precious. Share your own precious moments by sending a tweet to @tyhafan with the #preciousmoments hashtag.

Bus damaged in incident



A bus was damaged in a collision at Barry Island on Saturday morning. If anyone has any information on the incident, they are asked to contact the local police on 101. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ALEXANDER

WALK THE VALE

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SHEDDING A FEW POUNDS IN CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE BEFORE THE BIG DAY

THE Christmas Pudding Run at Merthyr Mawr on Sunday, December 14, drew a large amount of entries.

It was a multi-terrain event – sand, track, road and field – that tested competitors to the limit.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' record of the day, there was an off-terrain aspect too, splashing through a freezing stream!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk



DEAF ASSOCIATION HANDS BCBC A CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



Mynydd Cynffig Junior School perform at the certificate presentation.



ABOVE: Dr Terry Riley of the BDA signs the certificate of achievement.

THE Bridgend County Borough Council has become the first local authority in Wales to receive a certificate of achievement from the British Deaf Association – for progress made towards achieving British sign language charter status.

Representatives from the British Deaf Association presented the certificate to the council during a ceremony in the Civic Offices in Bridgend, with members of the deaf community and members of the BDA, cabinet members and councillors, as well as the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Gary Thomas.

Pupils from Mynydd Cynffig Junior School welcomed guests at the certificate presentation with a brilliant selection of Christmas carols, and Bettws Junior School ended the ceremony with a fantastic performance incorporating British sign language.

The Leader of BCBC, Coun Mel Nott, spoke of the authority's aim to become the first council in Wales to achieve full charter status.

Dr Terry Riley, chair of the British Deaf Association, spoke at the presentation about how momentous the occasion was for the council, and how the organisation hopes that other local authorities will follow suit and strive for charter status too.

Dr Riley said: "This is a huge achievement for Bridgend County Borough Council. We believe equal opportunities can be achieved by working with the deaf community, rather than by taking decisions and designing services decided on their behalf, and we feel that BCBC is very understanding of this."

The council has been praised for making progress in ensuring access for deaf people to information services, consulting with the local deaf community on a regular basis, and providing British Sign Language (BSL) training to staff within the customer service centre.

Coun Mel Nott said: "We have made excellent progress in meeting three of five pledges found within the BSL charter, and work is ongoing so that we can meet the two remaining pledges and give our local deaf community even better access to services."

"I'm absolutely delighted that our efforts have been recognised by the British Deaf Association in the form of the Certificate of Achievement."



ABOVE: Leader of BCBC – Coun Mel Nott and Mayor of BCBC, Coun Gary Thomas with Dr Terry Riley and Michelle Fowler-Powe of the BDA.



ABOVE: Mayor of BCBC, Coun Gary Thomas with the council's leader, Coun Mel Nott and the Chair of the BDA, Dr Terry Riley.



Bettws Primary School singing carols incorporating BSL.



ABOVE: The Leader of BCBC, Coun Mel Nott speaks at the certificate presentation.



RIGHT Leader of BCBC, Coun Mel Nott, signing the certificate of achievement.



LEFT: Chair of the BDA, Dr Terry Riley, addresses the audience.

Green Room launch
SUSTAINABLE Wales has announced its next 'Green Room' event on Friday, January 30 at 8pm, will feature Porthcawl writer Tom Anderson's first novel, *The Actaeon Tide*, published by Parthian.
Tom is known for his accounts of surfing around the world, described in volumes such as

WHAT'S ON / In brief

Chasing Dean and Riding the Magic Carpet (Summersdale).
The Actaeon Tide is Anderson's first novel and it brings together Tom's interests in surfing and the health of our oceans with his experience of working for a detective agency.
For information contact

Sustainable Wales on 01656 783962 or www.sustainablewales.org.uk. Entrance £3.

Sankey carols
HOREB Baptist Chapel will hold a Sankey carols night with Pastor Chris Bluto, on Sunday, December 21 from 4.30pm at Nantymoel. Contact chris_bluto@yahoo.co.uk (01443 675424).

Who wants to build what in the Vale, and where?

Westside Homes Ltd – **Vacant land, The Limes, Cowbridge** – Erection of two blocks of apartments each containing six dwelling units.

Persimmon Homes East Wales, Barratt Homes and Taylor Wimpey – **Site known as Westpond, Barry Waterfront, Barry** – Construction of substation for Phase 1 of the Westpond Barry Redevelopment.

Mr and Mrs Tony Davies – **1 Pembroke Close, Dinas Powys** – Two storey side extension.

Mr Robbie Robson – **5 Trepit Road, Wick** – Amendment to approvals 2009/00686/FUL and 2010/00279/FUL – single storey garage constructed of timber.

Mr B Jones – **Hillside, Pendoylan** – Agricultural barn.

Connells – **52 High Street, Cowbridge** – Change of Use from A1 Shops to A2 Financial and Professional Services. New fascia advertisement sign and replacement of the existing shopfront to match the existing.

Dinas Powys Football Club – **The Murch Recreation Ground, off Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys** – Siting of storage container to store football club equipment.

Mr Alfred Birner – **3 Maes Y Coed, Barry** – Division of a plot and the construction of two new two-bedroom apartments.

Mrs Karen Mallory – **74 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Construction of driveway to the front of the property with access over the pavement to the highway.

Mr Dylan Bowen – **6 Clive Place, Penarth** – Demolition of existing front elevation and reinstatement of stone facade complete with bay window.

Mr Paul Evans – **Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Ewenny** – Garage.

Mr Alexander Easton – **11 Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys** – Cut back hedges, demolish wall in part and excavate soil to provide a carport for two vehicles. Build a rendered blockwork retaining wall and build a carport with Dutch barn style roof and timber weatherboard elevations to the back and sides.

Mr Hayden Williams – **27 South Road, Sully, Penarth** – Proposed temporary building on land adjacent to 27 South Road, Sully.

Mr Anthony Hatwood, VoG Council – **Redlands House, Redlands Avenue, Penarth** – Refurbishment and cladding of front elevation, new canopy to front entrance, parking, spaces and soft and hard landscaping.

High Noon Stores Ltd – **Downs Filling Station,**

Stalling Down, Cowbridge – Replacement shop fascias and freestanding totem pole signage.

Mr Kevin Holmes – **Island View Residential Home, 8 – 12 Friars Road, Barry** – Single storey rear extension (sun lounge).

HSBC Bank plc – **HSBC, 61 High Street, Cowbridge** – Removal and replacement of one external ATM.

Mr and Mrs M Camilleri – **Ffream Annwn, Sully Road, Penarth** – Conversion of rural building to residential dwelling.

Mr Rob Ashman – **4 Voss Park Close, Llantwit Major** – Existing garage to be changed to habitable space, new window in place of garage door. New extension to side elevation to match existing front projection, to become new garage/store existing garage door utilised here. Existing stone cladding removed to front projection and rendered.

Mrs S Morel – **The Stables, adjacent The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely** – Alterations to previously approved scheme for a replacement dwelling (ref 2014/00705/FUL).

Mr B Watkins – **Westgate Lodge, 1 Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge** – Proposed utility room extension to ground floor including disabled shower room.

Rev Roger Grafton – **13/13A Arcot Street, Penarth** – Change of Use of ground floor to offices/counselling rooms and foodbank.

Mr Iain MacKinnon – **2 Rookery Close, Sully, Penarth** – Proposed extension to the rear of the garage.

Mrs Judith Jones – **24 Cae Gwyn, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension.

Mr Alan Shardelow – **13 Westward Rise, Barry** – Two storey extension to rear ground floor kitchen/lounge, first floor bedroom with en-suite. Porch extension to include cloakroom and WC.

Mr Geraint Thomas – **6 Plover Way, Penarth** – Single storey front, side and rear extensions.

Mr Chris Dando – **74 Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwellings with revised vehicular access.

Mr A Lewis – **59 North Walk, Barry** – Proposed double storey side extension.

The Governors of Stanwell School – **Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth** – Engineering works comprising the construction of 41 new parking spaces within the existing school grounds.

Mr A Dalton – **Land adjacent to Vale Forge, North Road, Cowbridge** – To remove Conditions 2, 3 and

4 being the conditions relating to Code of Sustainable Homes.

Mr Roger Thomas – **Land adjacent to Milllands Park, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major** – Provision of five licensed affordable mobile homes, including parking and landscaping.

Mrs Mary Tornabene – **20 Marine Drive, Barry** – Proposed window alterations to front and side elevations.

Mr Paul Church – **109 Glebe Street, Penarth** – Remove existing glazed aluminium shop front and replace with traditional wooden shop front with glazing.

Q-Park Ltd – **Site adjacent to A4226/Tredogan Road and Penmark roundabout, Cardiff International Airport, Rhose** – Vary Condition 1 of planning permission reference 2004/01930/FUL to extend time period for commencement of development.

Mr Nigel Jones – **Old Coal Yard, Gileston, St Athan** – Divert part of the overhead network and lay an underground cable, as per the Electricity Act, 1989.

Mr Leen Ritmeyer – **25 Minehead Avenue, Sully** – Extension to back of house for dining room.

Miss Thomas – **The Paddocks, Colwinston, Cowbridge** – Erect porch to rear of dwelling.

Mr Stephen Jones and Mrs Rebecca Evans – **12 Park Road, Penarth** – One replacement dwelling, including all external works and access from the highway.

Ms J Bertini – **8 Cae Canol, Penarth** – Removal of existing lean-to conservatory and construction of single storey lean-to extension.

Barry Island Property Company – **The Dolphin, Friars Road, Barry** – Demolition of the existing Dolphin bar/restaurant and redevelopment for 25 residential units, commercial uses and associated works.

Mr Peter Daniell – **81 South Road, Sully** – Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings. Re-roofing of existing rear extension connecting to new side extension.

Mr Anthony Oakley – **Glade View, St Mary Church** – Rear two storey and single storey extension.

PDSA – **PDSA, 6 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Replacement fascia, projecting signage and vinyl posters affixed to rear of shop front windows and doors.

Ms A Wills – **58 Porthkerry Road, Rhose** – Creation of first floor area and ground floor extensions to existing bungalow.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Nightingale Cottage, Porthkerry Park, Barry** – Material Change of Use from C3 residential to B1 business use and public display area.

Asda Stores Ltd – **Barry Waterfront, Powell Duffryn Way, Barry** – Car park and building signage to a new Asda store.

Mr EJ Jones & Sons – **Crack Hill House, A48, Brocastle, Bridgend** – Single storey extension.

Mr Leighton Thomas – **Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Unit 2, Felindre Meadows, Llanharan, Pencoed** – Extension to the current facility to accommodate additional business capacity.

Estate of Mrs R Norris – **Pentwyn House, Church Road, Llanblethian** – Removal of unilateral undertaking to allow for change (subject to planning) to two dwellings.

DJK Pizza Ltd – **Clerk to the Justices, Vale of Glamorgan Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry** – New shopfront, fascia and projecting sign.

Mrs Dwyning – **38 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Reduce chestnut tree and reduce plumb tree.

Mr Wilshire – **39 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** – Fell thuya.

Mrs Stanton – **12 Blodyn Y Gog, Barry** – Two oak trees – reduce limbs growing towards house, thin by 15 per cent and reduce crown.

Ms Sabine McGuire – **Ty Mawr, Bonvilston** – Dismantle two elm trees to first fork, crown raise sycamore tree, dismantle four stems of holm oak (near house) and crown raise holm oak.

Mr Douglas Burton – **1 Manor View, Ham Manor Park, Llantwit Major** – Take down two scots pines and crown raise silver birch.

Ms Kate Russell – **Great House, Bridge Road, Llanblethian** – Remove cherry, pine, ash, large cypress and willow trees. Crown raise two cherry trees off the path. Crown raise and thin out a group of field maple trees. Crown raise willow trees. Formation prune a group of pine trees. Reduce two cypress trees back to old reduction points.

Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc – **Unit 2, Heol Ceinlog, Waterfront Retail park, Barry** – Ancillary pet care and treatment facility within an existing A1 retail unit.

Mr Nigel Rowland – **2 Regency Close, Llantwit Major** – Erection of front porch, double storey side extension, detached garage. Demolition of existing garage.

Ms Helen Andrews – **Plas Hen, Bonvilston** – Change of Use to return Plas Hen Bed and Breakfast back to residential use.

Filco Supermarkets Ltd – **Former Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry** – Unit 3 to be occupied by Filco Supermarkets.

Mr Richard Stapleton – **144 Plassey Street, Penarth** – Proposed single storey rear/side extension.

Barry 01446 747878
Penarth 02920 705528
Roath 02920 464744
Whitchurch 02920 692626

Canton 02920 222344
Pontcanna 02920 225700
Talbot Green 01443 237667
Lettings Dept 02920 700573



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- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Utility Room

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Pontypridd Road £229,950



- Semi-Detached Dorma Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Cloakroom
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen / Breakfast Room

BARRY

Grangetown £59,950



- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- In Need of Attention
- No Chain

GRANGETOWN

Heol Pentwyn £145,000



- Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- In Need Of Modernisation
- Two Reception Rooms
- NO CHAIN

WHITCHURCH

Philog Court £104,950



- Two Bedroom
- Second Floor Flat
- NO CHAIN
- Village Location

WHITCHURCH

High Street £99,500



- No Onward Chain
- Old Llantrisant Village Location
- Great Investment Opportunity
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms

LLANTRISANT

High Street £42,000



- Offering No Chain
- Ideal Investment Property
- Three Bedroom
- Village Location
- Bathroom & WC

PORTH

Clydesmuir Road £99,950



- End of Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge, Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!

TREMORFA

Bulrush Close £125,000



- No Chain
- Spacious Living Area
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Mid Terrace
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Allocated Parking & Garden

ST MELLONS

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League results

LATEST results are:

First division: Red Admiral (M See, S Hayes 26) 261, Allsorts (C Griffith 30) 262; Space Finders (E Worthy 37) 328, Coppers (J Hartwell 31) 355; Cigar Ladies (J Wood 33 290, SV Gals (V Pycroft 34) 327; Bakers Dozen (E Baker 28) 271, Barry Stars (C Lambeth 28) 236; Friends and Family (G Brown 27) 218,

Castaways (K Bunter 24) 233; Family Affair (S Evans 32) 269, Pila Palas (A Williams, G Griffiths 26) 244; Colcot Ladies (J Parker, A Singleton 29) 273, Special Angels (L Pearce 2) 260.

Second division: Bobby's Girls (S Sugden 30) 257; Strikers (H Hicks, B Page 25) 242; Castle Bandits (B Evans 28) 253, Roller Coasters (S Jones, M Burgess, J Bresspy 25) 253; Cad

Con Fillies (J Rogers 28) 239, Witchill Widows (D Fido 27) 220; Breakaways (V Martin, C Parfitt, N Smith, J Dawins 28) 288, Divas (W Drayse 29) 265; Rhose Starlights (C Dally, M McAteer 25) 249, After Eights (I Havard, A Jackson 24) 227; Vixens (T Hatton, D Marks 27) 255, Clickies (M Thomas 28) 264.

Third division: SV Ladies (K Laeny 29) 299, Rhose Ravers (J Bisop, C Bagnall, D Davison, J Lott 29) 282; Lil's Devils (S Evans 25) 238, Jolly Dollies (S Lewis, C Jones 23) 204; Etcetera (S Dyke, C Mackintosh, M Denley 26) 263, Airways Angels (A Sales 28) 204; Merry Makers (R Collins, C Edwards 22) 211, Westenders (B Goddard, L Weston 22) 222; Friends and Neighbours (M Phipps 25) 252, Hill Billies (S Moorcroft 30) 240; Persuaders (C Organ 27) 223, Dolly

Mixtures (R Stuart 21) 197; Rugby Triers (V Cawley 28) 222, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 23) 232.

Fourth division: Challengers (J Dimond 30), Odd Bods (C Kooops, M Melbourne, T Perry 22) 226; Wyndham Witches (C Green 26) 226, Twilights (A Campbell, C Brown 26) 242; La Belles (R Clogg 34) 314, Rebels (J Farr 35) 331; Fallen Angels (S Jones 30 270, BFFs (M Pring 29) 275.

Fifth division: Nite Outers (M Hudson 24) 169, Barry Ravers (K Germon 28) 179; Park Belles (M Whitehurst 33) 218, Smurfs (J Maxwell 24) 142; Aristocats (T Weston 28) 240, Liberals (S Parry 31) 244; Socialites (K Glover 26) 253, Optimists (J Holland 26) 164; Guardian Angels (L Harris 27) 201; Hell Raisers (L Waters 28) 196.

Sports are defeated by Llandaff

SULLY Sports took on Llandaff North, losing by six points in a game that if they wanted, they could have easily won.

Sports were the stronger and more skilled team on the day, and took their chances well after the visitors took an early lead.

The lead then passed back and forth between Sports and Llandaff North, but yet again Sports showed how far they are willing to go to

play good rugby, and some excellent interlinking between the forwards and backs, saw them break out from their own 22 metre line, showing enterprise and scoring well worked tries.

The score didn't reflect the game, Llandaff North taking the match 32-26.

Thanks to all the supporters who braved this cold day; Sully are back to the league action this weekend playing Cathays away.

GI

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

We welcome your news, views and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Pencoed RFC leave it late to ensure Plate passage

GARETH PRENTICE TRY SECURES LAST 16 PLACE

PENCOED recorded a season's double over Maesteg with this well deserved victory, 23-14, in the third round of the Swalec Plate at the Recreation Ground.

Pencoed opened the scoring in the early minutes with scrum half Kyle Barrett breaking down the blindside before drawing in the cover and releasing supporting full back Tom Cross who took the final defender over with him in the act of scoring a fine try, Adam Williams adding the conversion from wide out.

The home side returned to the attack and driving play from back row forwards Gareth Prentice and Rhys Bargery set up good field position and a visitors indiscretion at the breakdown saw Williams extend the Pencoed lead with a 30 metre penalty goal after 15 minutes.

Pencoed were enjoying territorial dominance at this stage of the proceedings and Maesteg problems were further compounded on 25 minutes with the loss of centre Grant Epton, their influential skipper, forced from the field with injury.

Strong running from Rhys Pope, Ieuan Watkins and centre Lloyd Ryland opened up the midfield, unfortunately Pencoed were penalised at the resultant breakdown deep in the visitors' 22.

The Old Parish then enjoyed their best period of the half putting together phase after phase, but the home defence stood firm. Pencoed wing Liam Halse then did well in defence for his side, firstly taking a difficult high ball under pressure, before shortly afterwards putting in a strong tackle on opposite number Sam Griffiths.

Approaching the interval Pencoed half backs Barrett and Williams took play from their own half into the Maesteg 22 and Pencoed capitalised from prime position, moving the ball wide to Aaron Halse, who, carrying the ball in two hands, drew the stretched visitors' cover to feed wing Glen Hiscocks who popped the ball up out of the tackle for supporting back row forward Pope to athletically take the final pass and crash over at the corner flag.

Pencoed were full value for their 15-0 halftime lead, having used their possession well, this allied to a

strong defensive effort.

A visitors' knock-on at the restart gave Pencoed good field position, and Williams duly obliged when given the opportunity of a further penalty to extend the Pencoed lead.

The home side then lost Cross with injury, and with Pencoed having looked comfortable up to this stage of the match, then surfaced the expected Maesteg challenge in no uncertain terms.

Home prop forward Christian Powell, showing commendable fitness at this stage of the match, pulled off a big hit in centrefield to halt a dangerous attack, before Bargery saved what appeared an almost certain Maesteg try with a last ditch cover tackle.

The complexion of the match was to change within minutes, Maesteg wing Jack Scott-Thorton racing in on the overlap wide out with Ed Howley adding the extras.

The dangerous Howley soon got a second try and his fine conversion brought the scoreline to 18-14 with a place in the next round up for grabs.

Pencoed had looked vulnerable behind the scrum for the first time in the match during this period, a yellow card not helping matters. In the dying minutes Pencoed returned to the Maesteg 22 gaining a foothold metres from their try line, and with a series of pick and drives pounded the Old Parish line.

Something had to give between these two packs who had given their all, and at a resultant scrummage the home side somehow summoned up the energy for one final push, and No8 Gareth Prentice, to the delight of his pack members, got the touchdown to put Pencoed into the last 16 of the competition.

There were numerous candidates for Pencoed man of the match, such as Pope, Prentice, Watkins and Barrett, in this all-round team performance – with emerging young forward Rhys Bargery eventually taking the honours.

On Saturday, Pencoed return to Division 2 West Central action at Glyncorrwg, and no doubt will be heedful of the recent past in the Afan Valley.



PICTURED: Robinson Salver winners and runners-up Ben, Janet, Sandie, Peter, Rory, Trish, Ken (missing; Pat)

Porthcawl Bridge remembers Barrie

PLAYERS at this year's Bridge Club Christmas party competed for a new trophy – the Barrie Robinson Salver – presented in memory of the club's long standing former chairman.

It was played as a teams event – in 'the party spirit' – as he would have wanted. Congratulations to the winners Trish, Pat, Rory, Janet and Ben Richards.

Monday, December 8 – first, Pat Haworth and

Monday December 1 – Emer Disley; second, Jeff Perren and Kath Bray.

Thursday, December 11 – first, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second, Eleanor Jones and Margaret McCormack.

The club meets three times a week on Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel (7pm-10.15 pm). Visitors welcome. Call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

PORTHCAWL RFC JUNIOR ROUND-UP

PORTHCAWL youth ran out 14-5 winners against Tondy after a mainly uninspiring game.

An early score from Robbins, converted by Fox soon gave Porthcawl a seven point lead. With both teams resolute in defence scoring opportunities were limited, so much so that the halftime score was still 7-0 to the home team.

The second half was similar to the first, with the Seaweeds starting well by scoring a try from T Mathews, converted again by Fox.

Then the game dissolved into a stalemate with only a well deserved try from Tondy giving them hope of a result.

Porthcawl were relieved to hear the referee's whistle, giving them an unbeaten record in the league.

This week Porthcawl play Birchgrove youth in the Welsh Cup, kick off 2.30pm at South Road.

UNDER 10s COWBRIDGE 15 PORTHCAWL 20

Tries were scored by Stefan Yardley (2), Josh Woodbridge and Luke Roberts.

UNDER 9s - COWBRIDGE

UNDER-9s 8

PRFC UNDER-9s 4

COWBRIDGE/BRECON

UNDER-9s 7

PRFC UNDER- 9s 5

Porthcawl were once again short on numbers for the second week running and were looking forward to having a go against their opposition.

We were slow starting again, and easy tries were conceded, but the team never gave up and with a little bit of persistence gained good yards, offloaded well and started to get our pace players moving.

When Matthew Davidson came on after running a little late to get to the ground you could sense the side lift as they were happy to see one of bigger players take some of the strain which

he gladly obliged, while Max Williams, Rory Lampard, and Jac Bevan scored fabulous tries in this section of the game.

The tackling also improved, allowing Rowan Hill, Brandon Howells, Evan Carless and Sam Buckley to get the team moving forward. There was excellent yardage again from Max Shirley and Josh Bowring with much quicker ball provided by Will Thomas-Parker at scrum half.

Game 2 against a combined Brecon and Cowbridge side was again a great contest, but we were slow starting yet again.

Our opponents had some real big units that could shift, but a simple reminder to our players about technique and commitment to the tackle seemed to pretty much dry up their direct crash ball approach.

We lifted our personal and team efforts and produced a real dazzling display of rugby. All three teams that took part today were outstanding and the rugby played today was at times near perfect.

Not many games this season have had the home and away crowd clapping with a keen knowledge that all had been entertained by some very mature rugby from such young heads.

The second half of this game was the best performance to date from us as a team. The tackling is improving – just ask Sam Buckley, whose tackle brought down the biggest player on the pitch with perfect technique and ferocity.

Captain's comment: "A great team performance, with amazing tries from Jac Bevan and Max Williams; Sam Buckley's tackle was the best tackle I have seen this season and we showed we can not only play but compete."

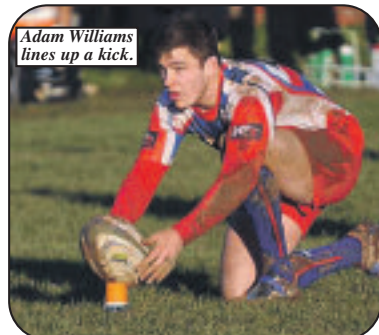
Try scorers: Jac Bevan (3), Max Williams (2), Rory Lampard (2), Matthew Davidson, Will Thomas-Parker.

JP

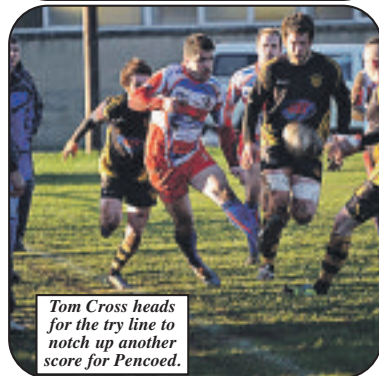
CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!
We welcome your news, views and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk



Gareth Prentice charges at the Maesteg defence. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.



Adam Williams lines up a kick.



Tom Cross heads for the try line to notch up another score for Pencoed.

Bridgend Bridge results

RESULTS for Bridgend Bridge Club at recent events were:

Wednesday, December 10 – First, Alan Heath and Rob Forman; Second, John Henson and John Evans; Third, Steve Burgoyne and Anne Fox. Winners on handicap Alan Heath and Rob Forman.

Friday, December 12 (the second round of the Club Mixed Pairs) – First, Dave and Debbie Lea; Second, Dave Reed and Jim Hume; Third, Tony and Emer Disley. Winners on handicap Dave and Debbie Lea. Overall winners and congratulations to Dave and Debbie Lea.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge

sessions for the less experienced bridge players where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for December 11 were Colin Lewis, Stuart Davies, Peter Morgan, Dilys Bowser, V Irene Thomas, John Hillman and Arthur Harvey.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Noltan Church Hall. These are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play.

It is still possible to book a place on the For further information, contact John Evans on 01656 880372.

The club will be closed from December 20 and will re-open on Friday, January 2, when all present members and anyone wishing to join will be most welcome.

DN

All square again for Sports under-15s

BRIDGEND Sports under-15s claimed their second draw in three games by sharing the spoils in a home match against Caerphilly.

Both sides should be praised for playing the match in difficult weather conditions due to the rain. Caerphilly started the game well and scored straight from the kick off, when one of their players made a strong run which was aided by several missed tackles by the Sports to score under the posts.

Nevertheless, this early blow did not phase the Sports as they soon levelled the game thanks to prop Dewi Ronan. The Sports were awarded a penalty just yards from the opposition's try line and made the most of this opportunity when Dewi charged over to level the score at 5-5.

However, the score was not level for long as the Caerphilly centre weaved his way through the Sports defence to make the Sports trail 10-5 going into halftime.

The Sports came out resurgent for the second half and levelled the scoreboard once again through outside half Will Prosser. Similar to the first try the Sports had a penalty just yards from the line and after a couple of phases the ball got out to Will, who dived over the line to score a vital try.

With the Sports now back in the game, the momentum was clearly now with the home side and the lead changed hands for the first time when Drew Price made a surging run to the right hand corner to put the Sports 15-10 up.

Despite the Sports' best efforts they could not close out the game, as Caerphilly scored an equalising try in what turned out to be the last play of the game, the match ending 15-15.

Overall, the Sports matched a decent Caerphilly team in all areas and should have arguably won the game if it was not for that late try, showing great character and spirit as always.

TP



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Family Notices

The Family of
JANE OLDFIELD

would like to express their sincere thanks to all those whose many kind words, expressions of sympathy and overwhelming support have sustained and comforted them during their sad loss, and for their generous donations to The Prospect Hospice, Swindon.

MORGAN
William David

Suddenly on December 10 at Llandough Hospital, Will of Llantwit Major and formerly of West Hall Farm, West Aberthaw, beloved husband of Daphne, dearly loved father of Julie and David and much loved grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon, Funeral Friday December 19, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Hospital c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

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PIPPIN**Vera Myfanwy**

Passed away peacefully after a short illness, Vera aged 91 years of Llantwit Major and formerly of Cilfynydd and Tonteg. Mother of Philip and Yvonne, and a loving grandmother and great-grandmother.

Funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 29 December at 2.45pm. Family flowers only but donations may be made to British Diabetic Association or Cancer Research UK Cymru c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

WILLIAMS

Karl
28.6.74 - 29.7.00

*Gone is the face we love so dear
Silent is the voice we love to hear
Too far away for sight and speech
But not too far for thoughts to reach
Who through absence is just as dear*

Merry Christmas Karl

Love and kisses Mum, Dad,
Annabel, Kris, Jamie, Gemma,
Leighton, Leona, Curtis, Lacey,
Kayden & Evie xxx

Also, remembering Mam and Dad
Pycroft, Ron and Jack, Ernie & Babs,
Joan & Marjorie, Gordon & Mary,
Billy, David and Glad xxx

THOMAS**Rita (née Hopkins)**

Sian, Rod, Sam and Emily would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral and for the cards, messages of sympathy, flowers and donations for The Stroke Association.

Thank you to Reverend Huw Butler for the lovely service and W.A. Brown & Son Funeral Directors. Everyone's kindness and support has been a great comfort to us at this sad time. *God bless you, Mum.*

PHELPS
David John

Peacefully on December 9th with his loving wife Diane at his bedside, David passed away. *He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.*

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of his life at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Barry on Monday, 22nd December at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Immediate family flowers only please. Donations may be made at the service to The Critical Care Unit at UHW, Cardiff in memory of David. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

DAVIES**June (Nee Lacey)**

Peacefully, after a short illness, June passed away on Thursday December 11 at Llandough Hospital. Loving mother to Wendy and Cara. June will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until her funeral service on Tuesday, 23rd December, 12 noon at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only please, donations may be made at the service in memory of June to Cancer Research. The family invite everyone who wishes to attend to join them back at The Wyndham, Harbour Road, Barry.

BOON**Valerie Ellen**

Valerie, loving wife to the late Michael and devoted mother to Richard, Gareth and Martin, passed away suddenly on December 13, 2014.

In accordance with her wishes, a private service for close family members will be held in due course. The family would like to thank the community for their sympathy and support at this difficult time.

GRIFFITHS**Ken***(of Marcross)*

Suddenly but peacefully at home with his family on 14th December 2014, Ken, much loved husband of June, loving dad of Ann and Kim. Father-in-law to Richard and Alan, devoted grandfather of Gareth, Matthew, Ceri and Bethan. Proud great granddad of Arthur and Henry. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 23rd December 2014 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the Diabetic Clinic, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

DENLEY
Peter Charles

Peacefully at his home in Barry, on December 14, after a short illness, Peter aged 67 years. Loving husband of Dilys, much loved dad of Anne Marie and Elizabeth, father-in-law of Stuart, a devoted pops to Clarebeth and Jonathan and a dearly loved twin brother of Derek.

Greatly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service in Salem Baptist Chapel, Beryl Road, Barry on Monday, December 22 at 4pm, afterwards to the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Immediate family flowers only please, donations, if wished, for Cancer Research Wales (for brain research) may be forwarded to the funeral home.

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spent with you and leave the rest to
God, love your husband Phil xxx

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He only takes the best.*

Love Phil xxx

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Sue & Mog Thomas

of Llantwit Major wish all our dear friends and relations a Blessed Xmas and a most Healthy and Happy 2015 xxx

This year we will be donating to our favourite charity in lieu of cards.

Howard & Marilyn Hellyar

wish family, friends & neighbours a very Merry Christmas xxx

Barbara & John Marsh

of Barry would like to wish family, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Mary & John Bacon

of Barry would like to wish their family and friends a Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Tricia Farley of Rhoose

Thank you everyone for all your help and good wishes.

Sorry I am unable to send cards this year, but I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love Tricia

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PENARTH HOCKEY FIRST TEAM PICK UP EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT WITH MEDICS WIN!

PENARTH Hockey Club's First XI returned to winning ways in time for the festive break, taking advantage of Cardiff Medics to get an early taste of the Christmas spirit with a 6-1 win, while the Seconds were denied their own Davis Wood Hockey League victory in dramatic fashion away at Gwent, drawing 2-2.

Penarth's 1st XI welcomed their opponents to Barry Sports Centre knowing that they had already beaten the same opposition in their season-opening encounter.

Despite again being forced into selection changes, the home side started strongly, taking the game to their opponents from the opening push back as the weather gods provided ideal conditions for good hockey.

Penarth's pressure paid quick dividends too, with a patient build-up being completed by a clinical reverse stick strike from Chris Baker.

The lead was doubled within minutes as the Bears pushed forward, allowing defensive midfielder Tom Harran to claim a rare goal shortly before the mid-point of the half.

At the other end, goalkeeper Mark Harris – the victim of a barrage of goals in recent weeks – was left with little to do as the Medics failed to exert any pressure on the home defence, allowing the restructured back four more than enough time to clear their lines on the few occasions play broke beyond the midfield.

Buoyed by their dominance, Penarth effectively put the game to bed before the interval, with Phil Lane and Chris McCarthy doubling the tally without reply, leaving the Medics facing a four-goal deficit ahead of the second period.

The visitors, somewhat belatedly, altered their tactics after the break, pushing more men forward to put greater pressure on the home defence, but it was still Penarth that held the upper hand, able to both build through the midfield or hit their opponents on the break.

With Gareth Hurman and Tom Parkinson providing useful links through the midfield, further goals always looked likely, and Lane duly obliged with a brace to complete his hat-trick midway through the half.

Perhaps taking their foot off the gas in the final minutes, Penarth's bid for a clean sheet came unstuck as the Medics claimed a late consolation, but six goals and three points proved welcome early presents as the Vale side heads into the Christmas break sitting eighth in De Cymru & The Marches 1.

One week from travelling to foot-of-the-table Bridgend, Penarth's 2nd XI felt a sense of déjà vu as they headed to another away game against a Gwent 'B' side that had sunk to the bottom of the pile since the last round of fixtures.

An early start brought its own problems as the Rougemont School pitch remained in the grip of a

heavy frost, delaying the pushback by 20 minutes.

When the game finally got underway, Penarth began by underlining their stronger league position, but were unable to make the breakthrough and paid the price when Gwent struck on the break, intercepting the ball in midfield before drilling the ball into the bottom left corner of the visitors' net.

Although Penarth quickly redressed the balance, snatching an equaliser before the break, it was clear that the desired passing game was still AWOL, although this was, in part, due to the still thawing pitch rather than the quality of the opposition.

The Vale side were more dominant in the second half and managed to create several chances either side of Gwent having a goal disallowed. Penarth's pressure eventually told as a second goal saw them take the lead with 15 minutes left on the clock, but the home side were not to be denied.

After a late period of pressure, a defensive error allowed a bobbling ball to reach an unmarked player, whose last-minute tap in salvaged a 2-2 draw.

Although the poor state of the pitch played its part in a predominately scrappy affair, Penarth had good reason to feel frustrated as a much-needed victory went begging as Gwent capitalised on two defensive howlers, leaving the Vale side seventh in the standings.

Although the 1st XI heads into hiatus for a few weeks, league action continues for the seconds, who go west to Neath for a mid-table clash where victory could see the sides swap places for Christmas.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry

Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from secretary Dave Stevens d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk. **CL**

The Barry darts league round-up

WITH the Poachers not playing in the last two weeks, the Billy Ghosts returned to the top of the table with a 16-5 win against the Caddy Cons Raiders and a 21-0 win over the Hell Raisers.

The Mariners 66 climb into second place with a 12-9 away lots to the Park Weasels and a 13-8 home win over the Runways.

The BFC Allstars remain unbeaten after winning 12-9 at home to the Plastics. The Cwm Talwg had a 14-7 home win against the Wanderers, with Steve Moggeridge hitting a 180.

The league committee would like to wish all league teams and members a merry Christmas and look forward to resuming the season in the new year. **RL**

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Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for December 15:

1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddock 68.51%, 2nd Mary Lougher & Margaret Gough 58.44%, 3rd John Beard & Liam Sheridan 56.49%. **LE**

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Barry seconds squeeze past the Saracens

BARRY 2nd XV travelled to Cardiff Saracens for their rearranged Mallet Cup tie, hoping to maintain the momentum gained from last weekend's victory over Rumney.

With players beginning to return from injuries and unavailability, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow had the luxury of making limited changes to the side, with the backline looking especially settled.

It was, however, always going to be a tough task to play a first-team in Cardiff Saracens and the opening exchanges proved that was the case. Barry fell foul of the referee's whistle in the first quarter, but the home side failed to take advantage with their outside half missing both penalty attempts.

Barry looked dangerous with ball in hand, with Ethan Dicks and Joel Williams looking particularly threatening. Jamie Oaten and Lloyd Dutton were colossal in the lineup, but when the official's whistle went again, Barry found themselves down to 14 men.

The away side also found themselves five points down before halftime, when an opportunistic kick forward was not fielded by the green-and-whites, and the result was an unconverted try.

Scott resisted the urge to ring the changes at halftime and his faith in the 15 players on the field was justified when Barry dominated proceedings after the interval.

After good work in the tight by John Dimond, Lee Turnbull and Oaten,

Dicks put his side on the scoreboard with a penalty kick following a Saracens transgression in the contact area.

The home side struggled to cope with Barry's attacking play in the next quarter, and it was no surprise when the away side took the lead. Williams switched the angle of attack, bringing Rhidian Mephram into the line who in turn fed Rhys Knapman to outpace all defenders and score out wide. Dicks was unable to add the extras.

Saracens huffed and puffed in the final quarter to look for a way back into the game, but found Barry's defence, led by captain Lee Jones, in unrelenting mood.

Instead it was the away side who looked more likely to add to their lead, with Thomas, Evans and ultimately Dicks threatening the Saracens line.

The home side had one last chance in the dying embers of the game but when the ball fell loose and was hacked into touch, the referee's whistle signalled the end of a pulsating game in which Barry came out on top.

Barry 2nd XV will face Caerul Ely in the next round at home, while they continue their league campaign away at St Josephs this weekend. The 3rd XV are also in league action at St Peters.

TEAM: Mephram; Knapman, Busuttil, Dicks, Poole; Williams, Dimond; Thomas, Turnbull, Lundy; Rolfe, Dutton; Oaten, Jones ©, J Evans.

Replacements: Ring, McTavish, Morris, D Evans. Man of the match: Dicks.

KC

The Big Green Annual out now



A circuit to run in the ladies' open race at the Llangeinor Hunt Steeplechases at Pyle. The winner was Lauberhorn, ridden by Anna Metekoh (second from left).

JOHN BEASLEY'S Big Green Annual is jam-packed full of pictures, reports and features of the past point-to-point season.

This stunning 192 colour page pictorial record will make an ideal Christmas present for hunting racing enthusiasts everywhere.

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test of time, this is the 15th Big Green Annual and it is certain to be on many fans' Christmas present lists.

It costs £24.95 plus £5.95 p&p and to order a copy telephone 01202 309489 or write to Paleface Publications, 30 Thistlebarrow Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7AL.

Brian Lee

Lifeguards host Vale speed relays

ON Sunday, December 7, Rhose Lifeguards hosted an afternoon of team relay races based on surf lifesaving events at Barry Leisure Centre.

The competition, entitled 'Vale of Glamorgan Speed Relays', saw junior, senior and masters teams from Sker, Llantwit Major, Pen-y-Bont, Southerndown and Rhose, take part in

races - including obstacle, manikin carry, rope throw, fin and medley events.

With each competitor in a team racing a pool length or 25 metres in events, the emphasis was on quick and 'speedy' races, which kept the momentum and energy going throughout the afternoon.

Rhose Lifeguards would like to thank all of the teams for taking part and for all of the volunteers who helped with timekeeping and organisational duties.

SULLY BOWLERS' MIXED RESULTS

SULLY Indoor Bowls teams had mixed results during the past week with the Club Championship team suffering a heavy defeat on their visit to league leaders Blaenau Gwent but the Stadium senior team maintained their unbeaten record by beating favourites Caerphilly (Islwyn).

On Saturday, December 6, the Stadium team travelled to Abertillery to play Blaenau Gwent on their three rink green which meant that Sully had to send three rinks to play at 10am and three rinks to play at 2pm, which is far from ideal, but made little difference to the result.

On a green with a much quicker pace than the Sully players are used to and a Blaenau Gwent team which included a number of internationals and players on the fringe, Sully were up against it from the off.

Sully morning skips of Brian Griffiths, Brian Foscolo and Fred Phillips were immediately put under pressure by the opposing rinks and went behind early with Griffiths' rink struggling against the Blaenau Gwent rink skipped by Welsh international Steve Harris.

The rinks of Foscolo and Phillips put up brave performances and both were leading into the final quarter but were outplayed over the final few ends leaving the home team ahead by 31 shots after the morning session.

The afternoon rinks of Matthew Woodcock, Martin Clarke and Ken McLeod tried to raise their games to not only overcome the deficit from the morning but also attempt to gain some

points from winning on their rinks.

But the home side were in know mood to let Sully get into the game and all Sully rinks went down heavily suffering a 52 shot reverse plus the 31 shots from the morning gave Blaenau Gwent an 83 shot victory, 169-86 - a total whitewash, giving them 22 points.

Sully senior team played their fifth Championship game at home on Friday against their strongest opponents to date needing a win to qualify for the national play-offs.

The game began with the opposition taking a nine shot lead after nine ends with Griffiths' rink 10-0 behind but at the end of the 10th he had recovered to go 12-11 up.

The other rinks skipped by Dave Snelling, Fred Phillips and Ken McLeod were at this stage all having close games but Sully were still behind by eight shots. The game from the 10th end began to swing in Sully's favour; although Phillips and Griffiths were two and five behind respectively, the rinks of Snelling and

McLeod at the 15th end were ahead by six and seven shots leaving Sully now ahead by six shots.

During the final six ends the rinks of McLeod, Griffiths and Phillips held their opponents while Dave Snelling's rink of Graham Cogbill, Alun Bryan and Mel Newman drew right away winning by 15 shots allowing, Sully a 12 shot victory, 84-72.

Sully took 10 points to Blaenau Gwent's four leaving Sully still unbeaten and in pole position to qualify for the national play-offs.

There is a three-week break over the Christmas period before the next round of games. The stadium will be open over the Christmas holidays, except for Christmas day and New Years day; opening times are 10am to 3pm.

Congratulations to Sully's Martin Clarke on making the final Welsh bowls trial, and we would like to wish all bowlers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. **FP**

Dinas ladies' golf

ON December 2, Turkey Trot Six Stableford - First, Annie Blackburn 17pts; second, Audrey Harwood 16pts on back six from third Sue Bridle 16pts on back three from Pam Warne 16pts.

On December 4, we held a successful nine hole Muddled Wine: First, Maxine Hird, Sian Smith and Pat Gosling 38pts; on back six from second, Angela Brown, Audrey Harwood and Terry

Unwin 38pts; third Lisa Ryley, Ruth Yates and Annie Blackburn 34pts.

On December 9, we held a Texas Scramble: First, Angela Brown, Pat Gosling and Sally Livsey Davies, 42-7.25 = 34.75; second, Louise Wilding, Ruth Yates and Jackie Lewis 41 - 5.83 = 35.17; third, Maxine Hird, Audrey Harwood and June Jones, 42- 6.75 = 35.25.

After golf, we gathered for a lovely brunch and presentation of Turkey Trot prizes. **RY**

TEAM WALES ARE WRESTLING WITH SUCCESS!

THE Welsh wrestling team built on their success in winning a bronze medal at the Commonwealth games with an outstanding performance and result at the recent Maltese Open.

A young Welsh team consisting of nine wrestlers and two officials led by head coach Alan Jones took part in this important annual international event alongside the hosts and teams from Northern Ireland, Switzerland and Italy.

This event was the last in a busy calendar year dominated by the Commonwealth games. The bronze won in that tournament has given the whole team a boost and to finish the year in style with victory in Malta for the first time is reward for the hard work of the whole team.

Each team member performed excellently with many terrific, hard fought bouts especially from the Cadets (16-17) who competed in a combined category with the older juniors (18-20). This made things harder for Team Wales but despite this disadvantage

Iwan Baker (Rhoose) and Reece Price, both earning their first caps, produced great results and Bobby Singh won the gold in this category.

Further medals followed with Tom Nelson taking bronze in his first senior international in the 65kg division, Kane Charig took a silver in the same category losing by an agonising one point in the final to a top Maltese wrestler before Tommy Hawthorn started the gold rush in the 74kg category.

Wales' only female wrestler competing, Molly McCann, moved Team Wales up the leader board with a gold in her category before a nailbiting finale. Welsh hopes were pinned on Salman Myalslav, who was pitted against Abraham Vassilo, victor in the previous three Maltese Opens, in the final of the 86kg category. After a cagey first round, Salman turned on the style to pin his opponent, win a fourth gold for Wales, and seal the overall team trophy for Team Wales.

The hard work is beginning to pay off and this victory with a young, inexperienced

team on the back of the Commonwealth success provides great confidence for Welsh Wrestling in the future. **AJ**

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Disaster strikes Barry Chess Club

ALL four Barry Chess Club teams were recently in action in the East Glamorgan League.

We played two home games while the other two teams both travelled to Cardiff.

Unfortunately, we lost two narrow games and were annihilated in the other two so we lost all four matches.

Out of 20 boards featuring 15 different Barry Chess Club members, we could muster only five points, which is our worst weekly return for many years.

The Bosons hosted the North Cardiff Woodpushers in a division 1 clash, while at the opposite end of the hall the Gambits took on the Caerphilly Rooks in division 4.

The Bosons' side was allegedly strengthened by the return of Oxford student Rhys Steele. This was unfortunately his first match for almost three months and his rusty performance proved the decisive factor in this game.

The Woodpushers are a strong outfit on the top

boards but have two 1m700 players at the bottom. For this match there was a late replacement as Ben Choo Yin was ill and he was replaced by Liam Penny, with an estimated rating of 1,500.

We did successfully win, with Steve Cunliffe on board 4 and Ashley Davis on board 5, to record a narrow loss by 3-2.

On the same night, the Gambits found themselves playing their lowest rated team of the season to date. The normal boards 3 and 4 were elevated to the top two boards.

The Rooks have normally selected from only six players. However, on this occasion Mike Joslin was unavailable, so they brought in a ringer, Bob Hurn on board 2.

This meant that this was by far the strongest team the Rooks had put out this season. The rating difference was so great that the cumulative ratings for the Rooks top three boards almost matched the cumulative ratings for our entire team.

It was no surprise

when board after board was won by the Caerphilly side. The night was pierced by an agonising cry as Dwayne Jones's flag fell and he thought he had lost.

It was pointed out to him that as his opponent, Jason Grice, only had his king on the board and therefore did not have mating material, the result was actually a draw. Jason's half point was all we could muster.

The next day, there was a table topping clash between league leaders Barry Camelots and third placed Cardiff Castles. With Matthew Parry being unavailable, Chris Green was promoted to lay his first ever division 1 game for Barry.

The Castles side was so strong that Alan Spice was on board 4 giving them a team with four players rated over 2,000 and their board 5 was rated over 1,900. The quality of this team was too great for us and only Craig Woolcock saved

our blushes with a draw on board 2.

This meagre return was enough to blow the Camelots off the top of the division for the first time in two months.

The Castles now have a narrow lead, with the Woodpushers not far behind. The Bosons bring up fourth place but are some way behind the top three with a game in hand.

The Barry Quarks, perhaps the surprise team in division 4, had a weakened team in Cardiff to play the Dragons.

With a couple of players unavailable and a couple playing for the Camelots, we expected to struggle. Steve Bonutto and myself made first starts in division 3 this season and both felt pleased to record draws. With a defeat on board 3 the match hung in the balance.

On board 1, Kevin Gandy was in a bit of a trouble, but managed to

get his queen into a strong position. He was playing for a draw by perpetual check until his opponent found the only square for his king to allow Kevin to mate him and earn our only win on the night.

John Stephenson played on in a difficult position, hoping for a draw on time or a stalemate. He failed in his objective and was mated, with his opponent having only 31 seconds left on his clock.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess, or just the occasional friendly game.

For more details, visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

PHIL JONES,
Club Secretary

News from Caerau Dragons Bowmen Archery Club...

CLUB members were proud to present one of their junior members with an achievement award after just one year as an archer.

Megan joined Caerau Dragons Bowmen Archery Club with her dad Rhys last November and after completing a beginners course of six lessons, she then progressed to practising indoors twice a week with the club.

As the evenings became lighter during the summer, outdoor shooting started at the club allowing targets to be placed at greater distances of 30 and 40 metres and Megan was able to practise and refine her skills with a greater challenge.

Constantly encouraged by other members of the club and supported by her family, Megan has achieved First Class and Bowman classifications at club level.

"This is a terrific achievement for Megan who has shown commitment and dedication to the sport over the last year, occasionally shooting in unfavourable weather conditions. She always



Megan

enjoys herself and has a smile," said Simon Miskin, club chairman, who presented Megan with her Bowman classification badge. The club is always looking for new members, so why not have a go yourself in the new year with a set of beginners lessons. Contact either Simon on 07974786235 or head coach Andrew Ellis on 02920 598062. SM

Bowling club's social evening

BARRY Central Bowls Club held a social evening recently at the Glenbrook Inn.

This was a most enjoyable dinner attended by the club president and his wife, the chairman, members of the committee and a number of bowlers, together with guests.

This has been a year of mixed fortunes for the club, who have very sadly witnessed the demise of some members, although attracting some new members to both the ladies and men's section of the club.

The last social event of this year will be one of the club's coffee mornings at 10.30am on Saturday, December 20. This will be a fundraising event, together with a presentation on behalf of the British Legion.

The members are looking forward to the 2015 bowling season, with the club issuing an invitation to new, as well as experienced bowlers, to join us at Gladstone Park on April 18, the start of the club's open week at the commencement of the new season.

JW

Barrivale results

RESULTS from Barrivale Bridge Club for December 9 were as follows:

First, Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, 62.50 per cent; second, Helen Jordan and Judith Owen 60.32 per cent; third, Irene Thomas and Jenny Vaughan 53.97 per cent. Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join, telephone 01446 418380, or 01446 733425; or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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Cadoxton students land impressive medal haul



WORLD Organisation of Martial Art Athletes (WOMAA) British Grand Prix finals were held in the Barry Memorial Hall, hosted by master Mal Johns.

Having competed over the last 12 months in various ranking tournaments a number of students from the Cadoxton School of Tae Kwon Do were in the mix for Grand Champions.

The grand prix series consisted of beginner less than one years training, advanced over one years training in all categories, traditional patterns, weapons point and continuous sparring. With

points being awarded for every podium place and totalled up after the last tournament resulting in a series grand champion.

As usual the tournament started with traditional Patterns, then onto Weapons, Point & Continuous sparring, beginners, and advanced categories.

After a long day competing five students from the Cadoxton Taekwon-Do school came away with 10 British W.O.M.A.A. Grand Championship titles between them.

Grand Champions In their various categories are: Maddison Allen, Continuous Sparring Grand Champion; Thea Cunningham, Continuous Sparring Grand

Champion; Jessie Blackley, Point and Continuous Sparring Grand Champion;

Cody Jacobsen, Weapons and Continuous Sparring Grand Champion; Lucia Cunningham, Patterns, Weapons, Point and Continuous Sparring Grand Champion.

For further information on class times, phone (01446) 406372 or see www.cadoxtontaekwondo.weebly.com.

Pictured (above) with the instructor are: Lucia Cunningham, Cody Jacobsen, Jessie Blackley, Ron Thomas (coach) Maddison Allen, Thea Cunningham. RT

Little book of horse racing...

DO you know what the oldest horse race in Britain is, where the term 'gee gee' comes from, or who is credited with bringing racing to Ascot?

The Little Book of Horse Racing by former point-to-point rider Anne Holland (published by The History Press at £9.99) is a compendium of the fascinating, strange and entertaining facts that can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the ancient sport of horseracing.

There are chapters on betting, racecourses, racing terminology, influential stallions, jockeys down the centuries, and so much more. On comparing two great jockeys, Fred Archer and Sir Gordon Richards 50 years apart, we learn that in Archer's time he had to rely on trains and horse drawn vehicles for transport, but Gordon not only had a chauffeur-driven car he could also travel by air.

Fred rode in the upright stance of the time, but by Gordon's time, the forward crouch position had long been adopted. Gordon is reported as saying: "Fred Archer's performance easily outstripped mine and let nobody doubt

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

that. I make this statement with absolute sincerity and certainty. His was an extraordinary, a unique performance... his achievement in 1885 of riding 246 winners in a season, taking into consideration the difficulties with which he had to contend, is the greatest feat a jockey will ever achieve... Fred Archer is one of the really great men of the turf."

Kind words indeed from Gordon, who many believe to have been the greatest flat racing jockey in the world.

If your husband, wife or partner is into horse racing, then this cracking little book would make a great Christmas stocking filler.

Champagne Chaser

CHAMPAGNE CHASER, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthaw, is a 10 lengths winner of the bumper (National Hunt flat race) at Uttoxeter last week.

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, Champagne Chaser was fancied and was returned the 9-4 favourite.

For sale
TIM VAUGHAN has several horses for sale

and these include **Panis Angelicus**, a five-year-old son of **Panis** who he describes as "a tough, consistent individual who won on his most recent outing, over two miles on the flat at Chantilly at the end of October. The third home, who was beaten less than two lengths, won well in a listed race at Saint-Cloud on his next start."

Also up for sale is **Tobacco Road**, a son of the exciting young National Hunt sire **Westerner**. Tim said: "He has shown a very high level of form on the flat over the past two seasons, winning twice at Sandown and Windsor and running to a very high Racing Post rating of 94 when finishing runner-up over the extended one mile and three furlongs back at Windsor last time out."

If you want advice on buying a racehorse, Tim's telephone number is 01446 771626.

Meanwhile, one of Tim's to look out for in the next week or two is the ex-Irish recruit **Dubh Eile**. Tim said: "**Dubh Eile** has done very well physically since being purchased at the Tattersalls August sale and has been showing up well on the gallops at

home."

It's a Steal!

It's A Steal, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, ran out an easy 10 lengths winner of the 32Red.Com Handicap Chase at Warwick last week.

The promising seven-year-old was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney and went off the 9-4 favourite. The day's riding honours however went to J E Moore who rode three winners-Top Gamble, Kylemore Lough and Incentivise- for Welsh border trainer Richard Lee.

The last named was once owned by the late Cardiff saddler John Ayres.

King Rolfe romps home

King Rolfe, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthaw, romped home a 13 lengths winner of the opening John Marsden 80th Birthday Handicap Chase at Southwell on Sunday where Vaughan is the leading trainer.

King Rolfe, a 9-1 chance, and at six the youngest horse in the race, was ridden by leading jockey Richard Johnson.

You can e-mail your news and views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or call him on 02920736438.

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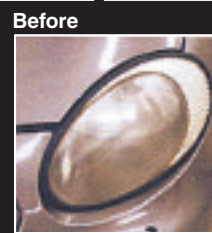
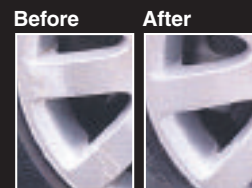
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THE SCOREBOARD MISLEADS AS ATH MATCH BARGOED

CONVERTED tries in the first minute and the last minute gave unbeaten Championship leaders Bargoed a seemingly comfortable victory over bottom six team Bridgend Athletic, at Newbridge Fields on Saturday.

But nothing could be further from the truth for in the intervening 78 minutes the Athletic at least matched their big-spending opponents in all facets of the game.

The match kicked off in a bright winter sun in conditions which, if a bit sticky, were still good for the time of year. Scott Govan kicked off, playing into the low sun and immediately Bargoed surged forward.

A quick ruck was followed by a chip over

the defence that was neatly gathered by centre Phil Price, who made ground quickly into the Athletic 22, where he was well tackled by full-back Lindsay MacCausland.

Quick support won the ruck and the ball was moved infield before being recycled back to the blind and Phil Price was again on hand to step inside the stretched defence to score a try that fly-half Josh Prosser was able to convert.

The home team, missing a number of regulars who were attending a wedding, were not unsettled by this. They soon carried the attack to the visitors, with scrum-half Aled Thomas driving his pack on and flanker Ben Howe in his usual combative mode fighting for every ball on the floor, ably supported by captain Matthew Hillman and veteran

hooker Simon Mustoe.

When the Athletic were awarded a penalty midway through the half, live-wire left wing Dan Howells took it quickly and made good ground up to the visitors' 22 but then gave away a penalty for not releasing in the tackle. Luckily for the Athletic, Bargoed soon gave away another penalty and this time it was in kickable range. Aled Thomas made no mistake in reducing the arrears.

Bargoed were well organised and efficient at the set piece and utilised big No. 8 Marc Gwilt to good effect throughout the game. It was rangy centre Darren Humphries who broke into the Athletic half as halftime approached and set up a sustained period of pressure that the Ath worked manfully to repel, with second-row pairing of Henri

Williams and Darren Deguerra driving attackers back and No. 8 Gruff Davies driving forward, with scavenged scraps of possession at every opportunity.

The pressure told and Henri Williams gave away a penalty under the posts and was shown a yellow card to boot. Bargoed sensed blood in the water and opted for the scrum, but with Rhys Jones coming off the wing to join the scrum, the threat was overcome and the half drew to a close with just four points between the sides.

The visitors opened the scoring of the second-half when Josh Prosser slotted over a penalty. The Ath returned to the fray and soon forced a penalty of their own but Aled Thomas was just wide with his kick on this occasion.

A midfield penalty kicked to touch gave the Ath good field position to exert more pressure on Bargoed which they did; driving towards the line with props Rod Apsee and Wayne Fooks to the fore. A lapse in concentration allowed the visitors to turn the ball over and a decisive counter-attack almost resulted in a try.

At the resulting scrum the Athletic pack infringed and referee Gareth John awarded a penalty try immediately which Prosser had no trouble in converting to open up a 14 point lead.

Still the Athletic continued to scrap for every morsel of possession and unnerved their bigger opponents but Bargoed were no mugs and are deservedly the division leaders.

When they gained a scrum close to the Athletic line their concerted drive was very effective and replacement No. 8 Steve Edmunds gained the touchdown which was converted by scrum-half James Pizey.

The Athletic battled into the Bargoed 22 and a line-out was well controlled for the pack to drive forward 15 metres before Matthew Hillman grounded the ball over the line for a try; Aled Thomas again converted.

Minutes later, a repeat performance, this time from 20 metres out, led to a try by Gruff Davies which went unconverted, bringing the Athletic to within nine points with only minutes remaining. The

home team were now eager to chase another score that would give them a losing bonus point but it was the visitors who dominated the last couple of minutes.

A series of drives wore down the valiant defence and eventually, prop Keiran Brown took a short pass and crashed over for a try that gained his team the extra bonus point. Pizey converted to make the final score Bridgend Athletic 15 Bargoed 31.

Despite another defeat keeping the Athletic near to the bottom of the table, the coaches can be pleased with the tenacity and commitment shown by all the players. There are still areas to work on in back play but the pack is showing some good cohesion as we approach the halfway point of the season.

There are only two games left this year for the Athletic. This week they travel just up the road to the Dairy field to take on Llanharan, before meeting Tondur at the Brewery Field Bridgend on Boxing Day for what could be a real Christmas cracker!

MD

HEOL Y CYW 2ND XV 17 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2ND XV 38

Bridgend Athletic crossed for six tries, defeating their Heol Y Cyw counterparts 38-17 away in the District league.

They have amassed 240 points and crossed for 37 tries in the seven league games to date.

The team showed no rustiness after the long autumn international break – the forwards with the solid front row of Huw Morris, Nathan Holman and Lewis Davies and flanker Geraint Lang to the fore, provided an excellent platform for the backs to shine on the day.

Wing Chris Walker, in his first outing this season on returning from university, was unstoppable, crossing for a try hat trick.

Other scorers were: centre Hywel Roberts, lock Harry Griffiths and outside half Tom Cole, who also weighed in with four conversions.

AB

Rhys (16) and Paul (58) scoop Wales Sport top awards

TWO Bridgend county borough residents won titles at the prestigious Wales Sport awards last week.

Teenager Rhys Young, who is studying for his A levels at Pencoed Comprehensive School, won the 'Young Volunteer of the Year' award, while Paul Jenkins, from Bettws, took away the title of 'Coach to Disabled People of the Year'.

They were both presented with trophies and got to share the stage with elite sportspeople at the awards bash, which was organised in partnership by Sport Wales and BBC Wales and held at the Sport Wales National Centre in Cardiff.

Rhys (16) works with BCBC's Active Young People department (AYPD) as part of their leadership programme, volunteers his time as an assistant coach for the junior section at Bridgend Athletics Club.

He is also involved with the council's 5 x 60 programme, helping to get young people interested and taking part in sports and physical activity, as well as mentoring younger leaders who are involved with the AYPD.

He was overjoyed at winning his award, saying: "I really didn't think it would be me, so when my name was called out as the winner, I was beyond shocked but also ecstatic, especially with the calibre of the nominees I was up against."

"Also, during the ceremony I got to meet famous sportspeople who I have admired throughout my life, so the whole thing was very surreal, I still can't believe it!"

Paul Jenkins (58) was recognised for his coaching contribution in wheelchair rugby. He started playing the game in 1990 and forged a successful sporting career, competing in the 1996 Paralympic games before retiring in 2000.

Since then, Paul has enjoyed a coaching career with the South Wales Pirates wheelchair rugby club, and coached the GB wheelchair rugby team to win gold at the 2014 Invictus Games, founded by Prince Harry for wounded and injured service men and women.

Paul said: "It's easy to motivate someone who is interested in sport. If they aren't then I'll make sure the session is less

Paul Jenkins, pictured with cyclist Rachel James.



ABOVE: Rhys Young is pictured with Judo gold medallist Natalie Powell.

physical and aggressive to encourage them, so they'll think, 'I can do that'."

Two other local residents were also among the nominees for awards.

Maesteg Comprehensive School pupil Shannon Heard was shortlisted for the 'Young Volunteer of the Year' award that Rhys won, while Sam Moore, a swimming instructor at Heronsbridge School and surf coach, was tipped by Paul in the 'Coach to

Disabled People of the Year' category.

BCBC Leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "I would like to congratulate all of the local nominees and winners on their fantastic accomplishments."

"They have done the county borough proud. Walking away from the Wales Sport Awards with a trophy is a huge achievement, and is well deserved recognition for the dedication and determination that they have shown."

Poor Kenfig exit Plate

Daryl Harvey crosses for his try.



KENFIG HILL failed to take their chances in a hard-fought Swalec Plate game against Ystalfera, losing 21-19.

The Mules were up 13-6 at halftime but made basic errors at crucial moments. Overall it was a poor display not helped by being reduced to 13 men following a red card and a yellow card in the second half.

Kenfig Hill scorers: Daryl Harvey (try), Lloyd Giles (four penalties and a conversion).

Heol-Y-Cyw ease through in the Plate

HEOL-Y-CYW hosted old adversaries Pentryrch in the third round of the Swalec Plate at Greenfields with clean crisp weather conditions ideal for running rugby.

The spectators had barely settled into position before flying wing Ryan Griffiths scored the first try for Cyw converted by Mike Huckridge. Cyw exerted enormous pressure on Pentryrch in the scrums and also in loose play and were awarded several penalties allowing good field positions.

Pentryrch conceded a penalty for offside in front of their posts and Huckridge converted to take the score to 10-0. Cyw now sensed the game was theirs for the taking and a superb back line move initialised by scrum half Aled Jones saw the ball moved quickly wide and good interplay between Chris Howe and Paul Songhurst saw full back Songhurst cross wide in the corner and then round under the posts for an easy conversion by Huckridge again.

Pentryrch tried to rally again but good tackling from Cyw kept them at bay. The referee yellow



Four-try hero Ryan Griffiths soars over the line.

carded a Pentryrch flank forward and while down to 14 men Cyw pressed hard their advantage with play in Pentryrch's 22 metre area and following several pick up and drive attempts second row Jordan Hawkins crashed over in the corner for a well deserved try that was unconverted.

Towards the end of the first half it was all Cyw pressure and wing Ryan Griffiths showed a clean pair of heels to the Pentryrch defence to claim his second try converted by Huckridge.

Cyw captain and hooker Luke O'Driscoll foiled what was sure to be a try from Pentryrch with a superb tackle on their centre but the referee yellow carded O'Driscoll for an infringement after the tackle; the halftime score was 29-0.

Pentryrch started the second half trying to take the game to Cyw with a bit more effort and Cyw

saw more play in their own half.

Strong defence kept the visitors out and when the opportunities arose Cyw tried to run the ball back at Pentryrch. Cyw inevitably piled on the pressure once again and flanker Craig Beasant scored a try converted by Huckridge to keep the score ticking over.

Cyw's number 8 Kyle Lowry was yellow carded for an offence but even a man short Cyw kept attacking and strong breaks from Chris John and centre Gareth Howells led to Ryan Griffiths crossing for his hat trick of tries wide out in the corner.

By now Cyw were capable of anything and a delicate chip kick to the corner bounced kindly for wing Ryan Griffiths to claim his fourth try of the game and win the man of the match award for an outstanding afternoon's work, the final score 46-0. DK